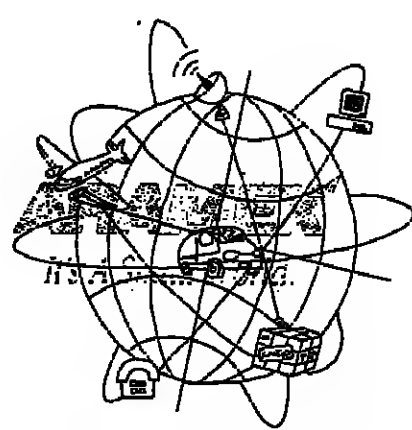


The Star

Jordan's political, economic and cultural weekly



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اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

King Hussein is welcome in Riyadh, Saud Faisal says

By Ahmed Shaker

Special to The Star
A JORDANIAN-Saudi summit between their Majesties King Hussein and King Fahd is expected to take place about one month from now in Mecca during Ramadan, sources said. The date coincides with Lailat Al Qadr (the night of revelation) when King Hussein will perform Umra in Mecca.

This date for the forthcoming summit was set at a meeting between King Hussein and Prince Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister during the latter's 24-hour visit to Jordan on Wednesday. Prince Saud told reporters that King Hussein was welcome to visit Saudi Arabia at the time of his convenience.

Just before the Saudi minister's departure, a Saudi official said that Jordanian-Saudi bilateral relations are now back on the right track. He added that they have even become stronger.

The Saudi aide explained that both sides spoke openly and frankly on all common issues.

A Jordanian official said that the two sides agreed to revive their previous bilateral agreements, most of which

were frozen since the Gulf War. He pointed out that Saudi Arabia is now considering contributing to Jordanian projects, via the Jeddah-based Islamic Bank of Development and other similar funds in Saudi Arabia. The two sides agreed that the Saudi labor market will be reopened for Jordanians. Saudi Arabia is expected to absorb about 20,000 Jordanians during 1996, most of whom had worked in Saudi Arabia, but left after the Gulf war.

Agreement was also reached on a visit of a Saudi Arabian technical delegation to Jordan after Eid Al Fitr to study issues related to the Tapline. The Saudi minister confirmed that Saudi Arabia is ready to pump any quantity of oil to Jordan whenever it is requested to do so. He said that repayment of former and present oil bills to Saudi Arabia won't be on the agenda of discussions at the moment. Moreover, Saudi Arabian officials will resume training at Jordanian military institutions.

Both Saudi Arabia and Jordan face mutual challenges, officials said. Therefore, they have resolved to cooperate to



encounter these challenges, especially regarding arms and drug smuggling, as well as religious extremism, which has become a regional phenomenon.

For its part, Saudi Arabia underlined its full support for the peace process. The prince emphasized that the signatory states to the Damascus Declaration will support Jordan in the same way as they do Egypt and Syria.

He pointed out that the end of the Arab-Israeli conflict, after a peace treaty is signed

between Syria and Israel, will make the region more prosperous, and more attractive to Saudi and Gulf investors. Sources close to Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker said he has received an open invitation from his Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ben Abdel Aziz, second deputy of the Saudi Prime Minister, to visit Saudi Arabia.

The sources added that Prince Saud informed Jordanian officials of the instructions on the part of Saudi authorities concerning the is-

sance of facilities needed for Jordanian truck drivers. They also said that Saudi Arabia will next week begin importing Jordanian vegetables and fruits, especially on the occasion of Ramadan.

Earlier, His Majesty King Hussein said that relations between Jordan and Saudi Arabia were back to normal and that they are built on mutual trust, openness and clarity. He told MBC television, Tuesday, that bilateral relations were unique and immune from past dangers.

The King, speaking after his meeting in Amman with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, said his personal concern over Iraq is based on the human dimension and on his desire to see a quick end to the tragedy of the Iraqi people. He said Jordan is concerned with the unity of Iraq and its sovereignty over all of its land. He added that he hoped that all Iraqis will meet and cooperate and that Jordan would offer them support and assistance so that they could return to their homeland and choose the formula that suits them best. He said he hoped Iraq will not be a threat to itself or to others in the region.

Mitterrand tourne la dernière page

A LIRE p. 10 dans LE JOURDAIN



King pays official visit to Israel

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein paid a short visit to Israel Wednesday and inaugurated a trauma center in a Tel Aviv hospital before heading to Lake Tiberias where he attended a ceremony honoring Jordanian and Israeli ambassadors to Washington. The King was accompanied by Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, His Majesty's advisors Mohammad Rasoul Al Kilani and Yanal Hikmat, Lower House deputies, and a number of cabinet ministers.

The King returned to Amman later on Wednesday. It was his first official visit to Israel since the two countries signed a peace agreement in October 1994.

King Hussein arrived in a Tel Aviv military base in the afternoon by a helicopter, which he piloted. He was received by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and given an

official reception. A military band played the national anthems of Jordan and Israel. The King inspected the guards of honor before being greeted by senior Israeli officials.

Later the King's motorcade passed through the streets of Tel Aviv and he was cheered by the city's residents.

Upon his arrival to the Sourasky Medical Center, the King visited two Jordanian Armed Forces men who are being treated in the hospital from injuries they received in Croatia. Later on he attended the official inauguration of the trauma unit in the hospital dedicated to the memory of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr Rabin died at the same hospital after being shot while leaving a peace rally in Tel Aviv last November.

Rabin's widow and members of the late prime minister's family attended the ceremony. Mrs Rabin paid tribute to King Hussein and his cou-

rage for building peace along with her husband.

Mr Peres also thanked the King for visiting Israel and supporting the peace that he and Mr Rabin had helped to build. He also paid tribute to the founder of the Kingdom the late King Abdullah for his vision and quest for peace.

On his part, the King said it was an emotional moment for him to be received so warmly by friends and supporters of peace. He praised Mr Peres predecessor and stressed the personal respect he had for him. He vowed to continue the struggle for peace in the Middle East to secure a better world for the future generations.

Later the King and the accompanying delegation left for Beit Gabriel on Lake Tiberias where he attended a celebration honoring Jordan's ambassador to Washington Dr

Continued on page 2

Arab-African Parliamentary Dialogue makes a stand on Jerusalem

By Hamdan Al Hajj

Special to The Star
AMMAN—Delegates of the Arab Parliamentary Union met today, Thursday, to discuss last year's US Congress decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

This issue was to be discussed by delegates to the Seventh Conference of Arab-African Parliamentary Dialogue, which concluded its deliberations in Amman on yesterday. But under pressure from the heads of delegations, the Palestinian delegation withdrew its proposal concerning the inclusion of this issue on the conference agenda, provided that heads of delegations would stress in their speeches the significance of Jerusalem to the Arabs and Muslims.

None of the delegates to the conference was as clear on this issue as Dr Abdul Salam Al Majali, head of the Jordanian delegation, who said, "We believe that the city of Jerusalem remains the closest issue to our hearts. No changes should be allowed in or around it that would affect its final status." The Senator and For-

mer prime minister added "we reject the Congress' decision to move the US embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, a decision that contravenes with the neutral role of the US as a sponsor of the peace process." Dr Majali asked the Arab and African parliamentarians to exercise their joint efforts and convey this explicit message to the Congress and the American administration.

Speaker of the Moroccan Parliament, Dr Jalal Said, who is also chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, said that "just, durable, and comprehensive peace in the Middle East can be achieved only with the liberation of all occupied Arab territories, including Al Quds al Sharif, the Golan Heights, and Southern Lebanon."

Dr Said outlined the negative repercussions of the Gulf War, the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of UN sanctions, the Kuwaiti people's concerns over their prisoners and missing persons, and the unjust siege imposed upon Libya. He added that the issue of Jerusalem is a crucial one which concerns the whole of humanity. He urged Arab and African parlia-

mentarians to combine their efforts and undertake the appropriate measures to counter the decision of the US Congress.

His Majesty King Hussein inaugurated the conference on Monday. In his short opening speech, the King said "faith in the people's right to shape their future and choose their life style has already been established in the conscience of the world and its new order. This has been done on the bases of democracy, political pluralism and ideologies, as well as respect for human rights in an environment of justice, equality, and respect for the rights of individuals and groups for free expression and conviction." King Hussein added "we clearly understand what should be done to encounter the challenges of certain phenomenon of poverty, underdevelopment, ignorance, and lack of democracy in this part of the world, as well as the eradication of the causes of conflict and differences among some states of our region." His Majesty pointed out that such a situation "requires that we jointly work

to facilitate the settlement of these problems by peaceful means, and to firmly stand against whoever tries to resort to force to resolve these disputes."

King Hussein added that "Jordan has, with full confidence, persuasion and faith, taken part in the peace process which put an end to decades of suffering and tragedies, and laid down the foundations of a secure and stable future where the peoples of the region can resume their course of comprehensive development and head towards the building of a better life for the coming generations."

The final communiqué of the conference called for a new launch on the course of Arab-African parliamentary dialogue. It emphasized the need to further strengthen Arab-African relations, and develop a strong determination among the states of these regions to bypass marginal issues and make Africa and the Arab world regions of peace, security, and stability. The statement called for the generalization of disarmament all around the world, and the dismantling

of weapons of mass destruction and nuclear warheads. It particularly requested that Israel should respond to this call.

The communiqué explained the importance of the Middle East and Africa for peace in the region and the world. It called for action to create a world in which poor and rich can share expertise and benefits.

The final communiqué criticized the US Congress' decision to move the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It viewed it as a dangerous position which would negatively affect the pace of progress in Middle East peace efforts.

The communiqué called for the peaceful solution of the conflict between Yemen and Eritrea through dialogue and negotiation. It also demanded the lifting of sanctions on Iraq and Libya. The statement stressed the need for the promotion of joint integrated projects among Arab and African states, and for the creation of a more just, more equitable situation for all.

Willy's whale of a tale has a happy ending

By Mark Fineman

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MEXICO CITY—Free Willy still isn't. But a C-130 transport plane awaits. So does a high-tech hoist that will lift the 7,000-pound orca from his cramped tank at Mexico City's Reino Aventura theme park.

And on Sunday morning, the killer whale that starred in the 1993 Warner Bros. film "Free Willy" finally began a long, expensive journey from the park that has been his controversial home for more than a decade.

He soon will be in a custom-built, \$7.3 million rehabilitation facility in Oregon. Eventually, marine environmentalists here and in America hope, Willy will find freedom in the Icelandic waters of his birth.

The departure of Keiko, the real name of Mexico's celebrity whale, is the product of more than a year's effort

by animal-rights activists and the movie's producers to transform the 18-year-old whale into a symbol of wildlife protection.

The campaign began soon after the movie's release, when American and Mexican animal-rights groups revealed that Willy was chronically ailing in substandard conditions at the facility here, which had purchased Keiko for \$350,000 from a Canadian theme park in 1985 and has used the whale's performances as a main draw ever since.

Amid an avalanche of protests in November 1994, the San Francisco-based Free Willy-Keiko Foundation formed the \$4 million in donations—half of it from Warner Bros.—ultimately to free the star aquatic mammal.

After months of negotiations—as the Mexican theme park staged a final flurry of Keiko-related events, including a planned parade last Sunday through the Mexican capital—environmentalists celebrated.

At the least, they said this week, Keiko's professional career of entertaining humans will end with his departure here from the facility, which agreed last year to donate the whale to the foundation.

"There will be no more performances. It will not breed, and, hopefully, he will be released," said Mark Berman, a program associate at Earth Island and a member of the Free Willy-Keiko Foundation. "This will take some time. But Keiko already has become a powerful symbol. People will no longer accept the capture of whales."

Keiko's new home, after an eight-hour journey on a cargo plane donated by United Parcel Service, is now the Oregon Coast Aquarium, a nonprofit

facility in Newport. There, he will spend at least the next year in a pool four times larger than his Mexico City home. He now has his own private freezer that holds up to a year's supply of food—120,000 pounds of frozen fish. And two viewing windows will permit visitors to watch marine scientists prepare Keiko for the wild—trying to unteach him old tricks.

The whale's new home also includes a medical pool, where doctors will attempt to treat a series of ailments apparently resulting from Keiko's captivity. He is, for example, about a ton underweight.

A spokesman for the Mexican park that has owned and housed Keiko said the giant animal had received the best care possible in Mexico—given his captivity. The spokesman noted that the park's owners had cooperated fully with the foundation and had volunteered to give up their major attraction in the interest of wildlife conservation.

But last Thursday, Mexico's leading environmental group, the Group of 100, issued a statement blaming much of Keiko's ills on his living conditions here.

The group also echoed US animal-rights activists in concluding last Sunday's first step in Keiko's liberation is symbolic and that it should send strong signals to governments in Iceland, Norway and Japan "to protect all whales throughout the world in their natural environments."



World Report

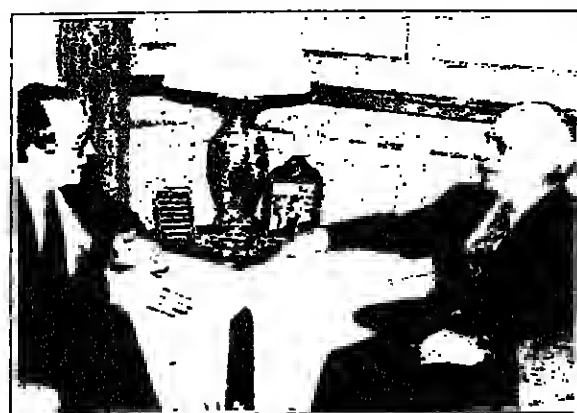
Continued on page 2



JORDAN

WEEK

An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Awni Abu Ghosh



US to supply Jordan with F-16 fighters, Perry announces

At a joint press conference with His Majesty King Hussein earlier this week, US Secretary of Defence William Perry announced that the United States will be providing Jordan with a package of US military assistance including a squadron of F-16 fighter bombers, and upgraded tanks to help modernize the Jordanian armed forces. Mr. Perry, who was on a short working visit to Jordan, added that the US had agreed to provide Jordan with 12 G-26, and 4F-16 B version fighter bombers in fulfillment of an earlier US promise to the King last September. King Hussein said "the offer has been accepted with deep appreciation." He added that the Jordanian armed forces have been a force for stability in the region, a defender of pluralism, democracy and the mutual interest of both countries. Mr. Perry said the package would be paid for by special draw-down funds allocated for Jordan in the US foreign military assistance program. Perry, who said Jordan was a linchpin for peace, pointed out that Israel had offered to provide maintenance services to these fighters.

Hindawi coming back in the reshuffle

Now that the state budget for 1996 has been passed by the Lower House receiving 52 votes in favor, the game of ministerial musical chairs may begin. While no official has yet leaked news of a change in the Government of Sharif Zaid Ben Shakir, the weeklies have formed his next cabinet already. *Al Hadath* claims that Sharif Zaid has started his consultations. It said the Prime Minister and former Deputy Prime Minister Thouran Al Hindawi had reconciled their differences over a lunch feast at Mr. Hindawi's residence. Hindawi participated in Sharif

Zaid's last two cabinets and was responsible for local affairs like the Parliament, economy and finance. But he resigned his post, in December 1994. In former Prime Minister Abdel Salam Majali's Government in protest of the quickening pace of the peace process and over differences with a number of ministers including current Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdel Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh. His possible return to public service could mean that Mr. Rawabdeh, who had conflicts with former minister Ibrahim Izziddin forcing him to resign last year, may be on his way out. Mr. Hindawi is as capable as Rawabdeh, if not better, at handling the deputies and in dealing with the tough issues of professional associations, political parties and the press. If the reshuffle takes place then Sharif Zaid will want to secure two objectives: to reduce the number of deputies in his cabinet, now standing at 18, and to reduce the number of portfolios, now standing at 31. This means that



Hindawi

some ministries will be canceled or combined with others, while the number of state ministers, or ministers without portfolios now standing at five, will be reduced. *Al Hadath* suggests that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaleel Al Karaki is eligible to leave. He was rumored to have refused to sign bilateral information agreements with Israel. Others who might be fired include Minister of Higher Education Rabeah Saud, Minister of Interior Salameh Hamad and Minister of Justice Hisham Al Tal. The reshuffle is expected to take place next week or in the first week of Ramadan.

Water, with a little help from the French

Following the French Government's initiative and in the framework of the multilateral cooperation for the peace process in the Middle East, the *Office International de l'Eau*, which is a French organization for expertise and training in the water sector, is organizing an 11-day training session concentrating on the rehabilitation of water municipal systems. The course, which opened on Monday at Amra Hotel, was opened by Mr. Koussai Qureshi, general secretary of the Water Authority, and Mr. Stephane Romatet, prime councillor of the French embassy in Amman. Nineteen trainees from the four countries involved in the peace process, Palestine, Israel, Egypt and Jordan, are participating in the course. The training session's objective is to make the technicians aware of the public health problems caused by the quality of potable water. The training course will focus on catchment protection, water treatment techniques, operating and maintenance of water supply networks, control of water wastage and leaks and systems automatization.

Jordan, PNA, Israel jointly fighting pests

Cooperation among Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israelis is expected to kill off mosquitoes and flies plaguing Jordan Rift residents. Dozens of fly traps have been set up along 40 kilometers of the Israeli-Jordanian border since April by scientists from both countries. After the flies were caught, they were dusted with a special fluorescent powder and released to monitor their movements, the Jerusalem Post reported. According to Prof. Yoel Margalit, of Ben-Gurion University's life sciences department, "Now that we understand the problem, we can work on a practical solution to

wipe out the pests in cooperation with the Jordanians and Palestinians."

Norwegian delegates visit area

The Speaker of the Norwegian Parliament, Mrs. Kirsti Kollie Grondal, visited Jordan on Tuesday and Wednesday leading the Foreign Relations Committee of the Norwegian Parliament. The visit is the first of many accompanying delegates who want to get acquainted with Jordanian politics. The delegation met representatives from both political and academic life. The visit falls within the framework of the tour of the region, which will include other countries, to study the course of the peace process. The head of the delegation, Mr. Haakon Blankenborg told *The Star* that this trip has added to their better understanding of the peace process on the ground. In Jordan the delegation was received by His Majesty King Hussein and other high ranking officials. The delegation has since left for the PNA areas and Israel where it is expected that they will meet PNA chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Thank God for small miracles!

Amidst the price hikes of the past year, we should be grateful to the Government for its generous initiative to increase the salaries of civil servants by JD10 as from the beginning of this month. Initially, the raise was to begin in May, but as a result of the valiant efforts of the Lower

Censorship: still with us

In an unprecedented move since 1989, the Press and Publication Dept. confiscated Ibrahim Nasrallah's latest novel "Tayoor Al Hathar." Nasrallah described the confiscation as "uncivilized, undemocratic and arbitrary," and that it went against the freedom of expression as underlined in the Constitution. There was no reason for the confiscation of the novel said Mr. Ibrahim Al Abbsi, president of the Jordan Writers Association. He said that the confiscation has put an end to the saying that Amman is one of the cultural capitals of the Arab world. For his part, the Director of the Press and Publications, Mr. Mohammad Amin, denied that the book was confiscated but said that such a decision is yet to be taken.



Ibrahim Nasrallah



Jahad Rifai/Ad Dastour

House deputies, the Government was obliged to make the increments effective immediately.

UNRWA workers to hold a general strike

A general strike by UNRWA workers is planned for 1 January. If the organization does not respond to their demand to a wage increase, UNRWA worker committees have called for the strike which will be the first in the history of Jordan. After a partial strike a few weeks ago, they have received a promise from the commissioner general, Mr. Ilter Turkmen to increase their wages by 30 percent. Unfortunately they did not receive any. It is only first ranking workers who only received JD 10. Committee representative told *The Star*.

The timing of the general strike will meet the first day of the school opening, which means that 134,000 students will find their 197 UNRWA schools on strike. UNRWA staff in Jordan are numbered 5,500, they became more determined on getting the increase, after the UNRWA workers in West Bank and Gaza Strip got an annual increase of 8 per cent, in addition to 5 per cent on health insurance.

US admiral visits Amman

Admiral Mike Boords, Chief of Naval Operations for the US Navy, paid a one-day visit to Jordan this week. During the visit, Admiral Boords held meetings with Gen. Abdul-Hafez Marei Al Ka'abneh, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his aides.

Certificate of good conduct for PNA

The PNA will be likely to receive \$2.4 billion from the donor countries currently meeting in Paris, in support of its 5-year plan of development. However, the PNA is also expected to get \$550 million, and an additional amount of \$425 million that has been out standing from the donations allocated for 1995.

Apparently, the PNA delegation is ensured of France's pledge to continue its annual P.F. 250 million assistance to the PNA, and to pressurize the EU to do so.

According to the Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa, the PNA now enjoys the satisfaction of the WB and IMF towards the former's proper management of the financial donations. In fact, the PNA has reduced its financial deficit from \$ 225 million last year to \$125 million in 1996.

A tribute to Ibrahim Shihdeh

The Speaker and the deputies of the Lower House announced with sorrow the death of their colleague Ibrahim Shihdeh. Thousands of people from Jordan and Palestine escorted the deceased to his final resting place. The funeral was headed by Muhammad Rasul Al Keilani as a representative of His Majesty

King Hussein, the Mayor of Al Balqa, and a number of deputies, officials, senators, political party leaders and citizens of Al Balqa arrived to pay condolences.

According to the constitution, district elections will be run in Al Balqa's governorate to elect a substitute to the deceased deputy.

Shbeilat case postponed

The 150- attorney committee defending Mr. Laili Shbeilat has contested the competence of the judicial panel members and asked that the case be dismissed. But the State Security Court, Wednesday, rejected the request and decided to proceed with the case. The court adjourned until 13 January. Shbeilat's attorneys were allowed to consult with the defendant privately. A number of Shbeilat supporters organized a sit-in in front of Parliament to protest the detention of Shbeilat. The gathering was later dispersed by police and protesters claimed they were beaten.



Shbeilat

France wants stronger ties with Arabs, says envoy

AMMAN (Star)—Philippe Seguin, who is a Gaullist and close to President Chirac, is the President of the French National Assembly. He arrived last week to the region. Seguin, a mayor of the town of Epinal east of France, went last Sunday to Jericho with other French mayors for a twinning ceremony of Palestinian and French cities.

Seguin's visit to the region aims at strengthening links with Arab countries. He told *The Star* last week that his trip to Amman aims at boosting French-Jordanian relations.

He said that Jordan's Parliament is a good representative of the democratic process. He added that it is an active Parliament with which the French assembly hopes to cooperate regularly.

Seguin said that one of the reasons for his visit to the region is to achieve progress in the peace process. "Peace is supposed to bring prosperity to the whole region inasmuch as new economic, cultural and human relationships are established between people," he added.

Regional economic organization will be easier if the region encourages more foreign investment. Europe is committed to this area. This is evidenced by last month's Barcelona conference of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation.

"We are also working hard at the political level to ensure interchangeability between the nations of the north and the south along the Mediterranean," he said. France has a big role to play in the region as it has traditional connections with Arab countries in this area.

France has a large Muslim population. In fact it is larger than the population of Jordan! This was one of the reasons why France, together with Europe, wants to build a strong relationship with the Arab world. ■

King makes official visit to Israel

Continued from page 1

Fayez Al Tarawneh and Israel's chief negotiator with Jordan Mr. Elakim Rubenstein.

The King, Mr. Peres and US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who began a visit to the Middle East on Wednesday, attended the ceremony, which was supposed to take place in November of last year but was postponed after Rabin's assassination.

In his address, the King said that the combined will of the partners of peace will continue in search for a comprehensive peace in the region. He paid tribute to Yitzhak Rabin with whom the King had concluded peace.

Mr. Christopher praised Dr. Tarawneh and Mr. Rubenstein for their efforts in negotiating the peace agreement. He described the peace between Jordan and Israel as a real and warm peace.

Mr. Peres talked about the enormous efforts that were spent by Jordan and Israel to bring the peace agreement to reality and thanked the United States for its support. He praised King Hussein for his warmth and support and paid tribute to Jordanian diplomats and officials for their efforts. ■

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THE BIG RED BOAT
PREMIER CRUISE LINES
AMERICA'S AT FAMILY CRUISE AND VACATION

Participants defend UNCTAD's existence

Continued from page 1

the promotion of trade for developing countries. They point out that the problems of developing nations in the 1970s and 80s have changed from the need to construct adequate infrastructure to the need to deal with the large debt that accompanies this construc-

tion. Dr. Unayya Toukan, Director General of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), explains that financial markets can play a major role in the alleviation of this debt. Moreover, Dr. Toukan explains that UNCTAD can play a major role in this regard and should have as one of its priorities, "the utilization of inter-

national financial markets in either buy back debts or reschedule debts, or make more resources available." He adds that UNCTAD may be able to act as an intermediary between governments and financial markets, "to find a way to deal with the debt issue."

Another issue which opponents of the organization raise, is the fact that at UNCTAD's inception, in 1964, trading blocks were not as prevailing as they currently are. This being the case, they question,

with trading blocks such as the European Union (EU) and the North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) becoming more common, whether UNCTAD's role of helping LDCs is no longer necessary. They contend that the formation of trade unions, among developed and less developed countries, have essentially created the strength and representation which UNCTAD sought to provide. If LDCs have obtained this strength and equality, however, supporters are hard pressed to find its validity. Dr. Toukan, head of the AFM, asserts that, "...after almost thirty years of hard work...only a couple [of countries] like Singapore...are now classified as developed."

"Clearly," he adds, "...we did not achieve the stage where we can disperse with UNCTAD." One of the prominent features of these developing countries, has been and still is, their heavy reliance on commodities, as opposed to finished goods, for export. With the setting up of the Common Fund for Commodities, UNCTAD, he notes, was able to further integrate developing countries into the world economy. While blocks among these developing countries may have been established, they must nevertheless, continue in trade with developed blocks. In this regard, there is no reason to believe that UNCTAD's relevance has been, or will be, diminished.

It is very clear that UNCTAD has reached a pivotal juncture in its existence. Critics are questioning the need for what they consider to be an outdated organization with little defining qualities and roles. Proponents, agree that the organization is in need of reform and redefining in order to better face the challenges of the upcoming years, and maintain that while other bodies do exist, none have the agenda of specifically looking out for the interests of the developing nations. This, they claim is justification enough for its existence. ■

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Samiha Khalil: Standing up to the status quo

AMMAN (Star)—I believe that the Oslo agreements have failed to achieve the aspirations of our people for freedom and independence, and have denied our complete sovereignty over our land. These agreements also failed to satisfy the minimum demands of total and unconditional withdrawal, the release of all Palestinian detainees to participate alongside their people in making decisions which affect their fate, concerning the issues of Jerusalem, settlements, refugees and borders which will be dealt with in the final stage. This is the presidential communique of Mrs Samiha Khalil, the first woman to run against President Arafat in the forthcoming Palestinian Council elections.

"[In that regard] with God's help I decided to run as a candidate for the presidency of the National Authority to achieve, together with my people, a real peace that leads us to freedom, liberation and independence."

Less than a month before the Palestinian elections, to be held on 20 January, in Jericho, Mrs Khalil officially met candidacy requirements by presenting a petition with 5,000 names of registered voters from the West Bank and Gaza and \$3,000 to election officials. A few days earlier, PLO chairman Arafat submitted his registration papers and the official fee.

Mrs Khalil reiterated her respect for Mr Arafat, but she said "I can't carry the burden of his mistakes and the results of the negotiations with the Israelis." She added "We are with democracy, as Arafat always states, and it is my right to run. I am strongly determined to face him."

Mrs Khalil was born in 1923 in the West Bank village of Anabta, near Tulkarm. She was married at the age of 17 to Salameh Khalil who was a member of the Arab Nationalist Movement, the mother organization of Arab liberation movements. She has 4 sons and one daughter. Three of her sons were detained and then expelled out of the West Bank by the occupation authorities, and her daughter is not allowed to live there either.

Two of her sons were members of the Marxist Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. One of her sons Sajj resigned from his post as the representative of the DFLP in Amman.

The 72 year old grandmother is the president of the charitable *In Ash Al Ura Society*, a family welfare organization in Al Bira, which she established in 1956. The society started with a capital of JD 100, two rooms and eight employees. Currently, it employs 510 employees, and 380 women working on traditional embroidery in five centers in Al Bira. In addition to 4800 women who are distributed in 55 associations in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The society produces Palestinian costumes and merchandise, and hosts cultural events, and training courses.

About 4,500 families are benefiting from the society, and its products serve 34, 000 people. It is considered by some to be the biggest charity organization in the Middle East.

When the Intifada erupted in 1987, Mrs Khalil became one of its leaders, her activities increased amongst families who suffered the loss of loved ones during the uprising.

In 1988, the Israeli military governor ordered the sealing of the society in Al Bira. "The society incites children to violence against Israel, and to anti-Semitism, it also finances families whose members were 'killed', injured or detained during the Intifada," an Israeli military spokesman said.

An independent political activist, Mrs Khalil has been a member of the PLO's Palestinian National Council, in exile, since 1965. She was also appointed by Arafat as the General Secretary of the General Union of Palestinian Women, and is also an active member of several NGOs. She was prevented from travelling out of the West Bank for more than 15 years.

Palestinians call Mrs Khalil as *Khala Um Khalil* (aunt Um Khalil). Most of her time is spent on voluntary work. She writes poetry in her spare time and has published two books of *Zajal* (A popular kind of Palestinian poetry). "Every Thursday, I meet the mothers of Palestinian prisoners and I see the pictures of their sons pinned on their dresses and you cannot imagine how sad I feel," she said. "They ask everybody for help but no one listens."

"During the 1980s, she was detained six times by the Israeli authorities in an attempt to stop her social and humanitarian activities. She was placed under town arrest for two and half years and later went on a hunger strike for two weeks.

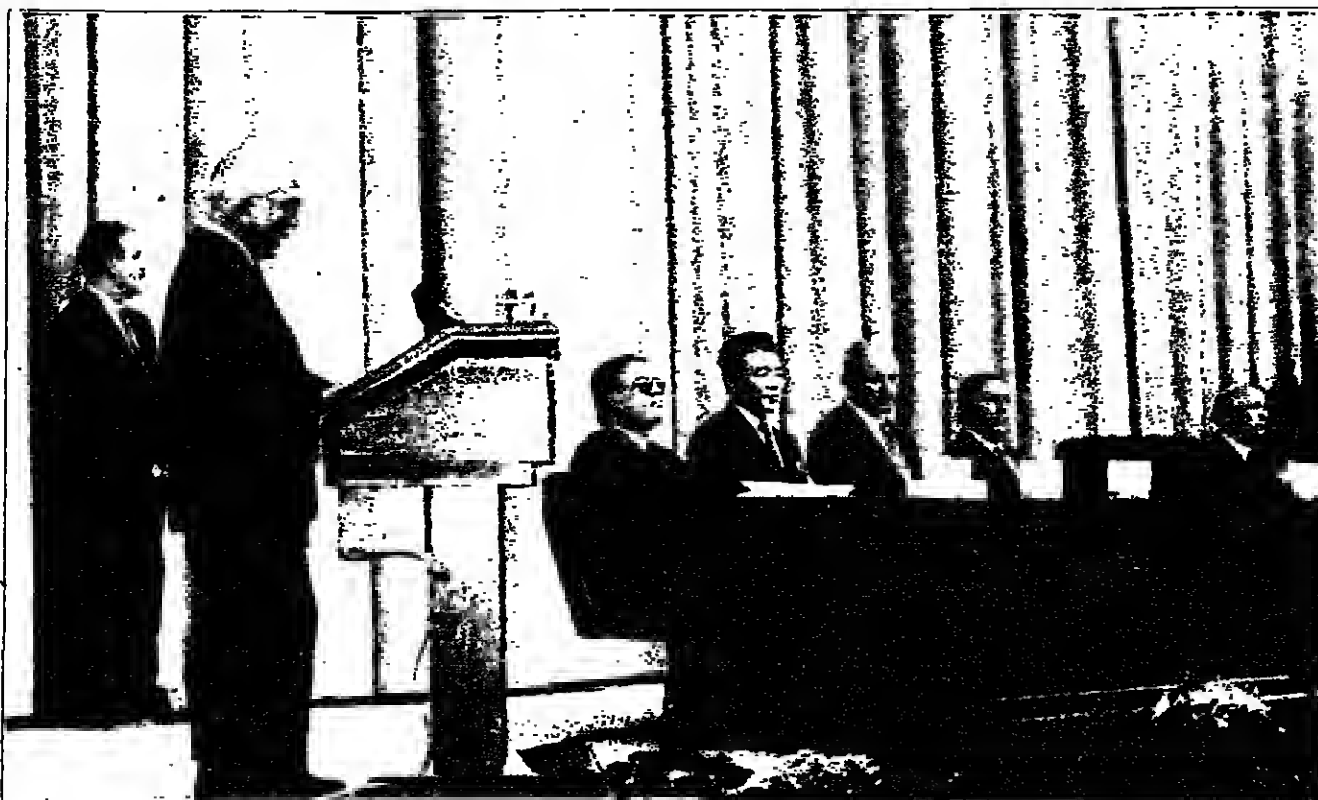
"Since the very beginning of my political activity in the aftermath of the 1948 war, I always believed in the liberation of Palestine. When my son Sajj visited me at prison in Nabulus and suggested that I accept a Palestinian state beside Israel, I refused to receive his visits to the prison for three months," Mrs Khalil said.

"Now there is no way to escape from dealing with reality," she added.

Mrs Khalil said that if she wins, she will not enter into negotiations with the Israelis till all Palestinian prisoners are liberated.



Samiha Khalil



● His Majesty King Hussein opening the 8th Asian Ministerial Conference that is due to end today, Thursday. (See front page story).

Dr Taleb Rifai of the IPC

Investments are needed to re-energize the economy

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr Taleb Al Rifai is the director of the newly established Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) established and what are its programs? The IPC was established in accordance with law no 16 of '95. The purpose was to carry on, and be in charge of the investment portfolio in Jordan. Investment is seen as being one of the major instruments for development and for reviving and re-energizing our economic situation. We see local and foreign investments as tools for the re-energizing of the economy.

Why was the Investment Promotion Corporation (IPC) established and what are its programs? The IPC was established in accordance with law no 16 of '95. The purpose was to carry on, and be in charge of the investment portfolio in Jordan. Investment is seen as being one of the major instruments for development and for reviving and re-energizing our economic situation. We see local and foreign investments as tools for the re-energizing of the economy.

But there is difference between aspirations and realities! True, but we recognize that it is not enough to reform your laws and regulations. You also have to make sure that the mechanisms and the state of mind of the people who implement these regulations are equipped enough to deal with issues and make sure that there are no bottlenecks, no bureaucratic obstacles that would stand in the way of the flow of certain investments. To do that, we are now in the process of establishing the so-called 'one-stop' station, and putting together all the elements that other institutions in this country are responsible for in a fashion that insures that the chain of activities that is necessary to conclude a particular project or a particular deal is not interrupted by any weak link in the chain. Here I am talking about the variety of institutions, the department of customs, taxes, municipalities, ministries of labor, interior, to other areas of infrastructural services and make sure that we can maximize on what these institutions in these respective services can contribute to the prospects of investment in the country.

Can you elaborate? We understand it as follows: Investment as a tool to provide job opportunities and reduce unemployment—one of the most critical and crucial problems that we have to face and deal with; Investment as a tool for directing development; be it to direct development in certain sectors by providing specific incentives to these sectors vis-a-vis other sectors, or to direct development in regions, such as encouraging development in lesser developed regions vis-a-vis the more developed regions; Investment is without doubt an important tool in the transfer of technology, especially high-tech industries and information-related industries as such; and Investment as a means of increasing our foreign reserves. This is extremely important in maintaining the stability of our economy and currency as such.

What is the purpose of the IPC? The purpose of this corporation is to make sure that these objectives are met and in the direction that I have just described. The underlying objective is to turn Jordan into an attractive investment destination and make sure that the investment environment is prepared for that, and that enough promotion to what we have is being given due to respective responsibility.

Some believe that the persisting mentality and state of mind in many public services constitute a major obstacle that draws back foreign investment. Do you share this view? Not only do I agree with that, but I also recognize that it is our most important and crucial challenge. I would like to modify my original statement by saying that it is not the presence or non-presence of a particular personnel.

How far do you expect the private sector investor to respond to your encouragement within the given strong role of the government? The situation is changing. There are changes that have at least occurred across the social divides. It is exemplified in the fact that there is an admittance and a consensus about what needs to be done. Nobody speaks now about rivalry in terms of policies, or about conflicts and contradictions between the public and private sectors. Every official speaks about the encouragement of the private sector giving it a bigger role, and privatization has become a slogan. Liberal economy is a big objective, open borders and all other stated market-oriented policies are becoming official policies in Jordan. There has never been such a unanimous consensus on

issues like this in decades.

The problem is that the distance between the stated objectives and realities in the field still need to be bridged. I think the private sector is coming along. It's understanding the official positions much better than before, and the government is much more receptive and willing to give in duties that were originally its own. It is clearly moving into a position of becoming a regulator rather than an operator of services of all kinds. For example, if you look at the new law of the telecommunications: it's one of the most advanced laws. It also opens up all market forces to the best advantage of the people, and there will be no more monopolies after 1997 on all operations that are related to telecommunications. I am sure that other sectors will follow.

There is a direction that is heading where it really wants to. So, the signs are not negative as some people are looking at it, and the change is happening. What we need to do is to strike at the good things that are happening, enrich them, and build on them on the one hand, and addressing our problems honestly, frankly, and without trying to hide them in the best way we know how. We should not be discouraged by the fact that we have so many problems, neither should we be so euphoric by the fact that we are heading into better days.

Many people in the street are disappointed by the delay of the peace fruits, to an extent that they are skeptical about the economic results. How do you see it? Let me breakdown your statement into two main issues: There is a problem with expectations and the general popular perception of peace. Conferences as going to bring with them goodness and pure heaven on earth by their own natural inertia. This is simply not true. These and all what followed will provide opportunities for people to take good advantage of what makes the best of their lives. These opportunities were not available before and [their absence] had made the people's lives very difficult. Peace can only make sure that the obstacles are elevated. But it doesn't bring on its own prosperity. Prosperity, growth, economic rehabilitation are to be done by people, and there's a problem of perception here, because people are still looking at it in the same way they were looking at the results of an Arab summit in the 1960s where the more capable countries would come out of this conference donating 2, 3, or 4 billions of dollars to the less financially capable countries, and things would become better. This can never happen again. Therefore, people ought to know and realize that the issue of making life better is now in their hands. Having said that, we should also look at what comes out of this process, the economic summit, etc.

What would come out of it is not really something that one would feel the next day. If we are talking about actual investments in the form of projects and capital investments, then we are talking about things that need to be planned for, partnerships to be clarified, companies to be formed, studies to be made, and there is implementation. I never heard that a project can be put over night. So, in some ways we know there are many things that are being prepared as I speak. These things will come into being in the course of 1996 and 1997. They may not be enough to do what needs to be done. But they are definitely the beginning of what may prove to be a turn in the lives of the people.



Dr Rifai

because the issue is not changing people with others, but it is changing the state of mind of the people. What we need is a massive campaign to re-direct the orientation and the way of thinking of the public servant. Public servants are not individuals that are coming from a different planet. They are part of our society. In every way they practice in the best way they know-how, and I am certainly assuming that they do it with the best of intentions, and with the belief they are serving their country. What we need to do now is to educate the people and make them more aware that serving their country requires a different way and a different mood of behavior. I think this is a challenge that we can't escape. I don't believe that a change in the mentality and in the procedures of the servants can be achieved and replacing people with other people. It can only be achieved by re-directing the way of thinking of the entire society, it is not only the problem of the public sector employees. It is a social problem.

Governments, not only in Jordan, but in many parts of this world, assumed, for a long time, the role of controller. We know best, we're right and everybody is wrong, etc. That mentality has perpetuated itself. We need to re-address the role of Government, reformulate the way the public servant thinks of himself, and definitely enhance and enforce the concept of the public servant serving the interest of his country by serving his countrymen. I don't know how long, and how in details that can take place, but it is a task which we cannot escape.

What is the actual role of the IPC in this connection? We are directly in charge of this issue. We are definitely in a position where we feel responsible to be on the investor's side, carry his interests through, and do it in such a way that other governmental agencies can understand him and us better. We definitely feel we are part of this change.

How far do you expect the private sector investor to respond to your encouragement within the given strong role of the government? The situation is changing. There are changes that have at least occurred across the social divides. It is exemplified in the fact that there is an admittance and a consensus about what needs to be done. Nobody speaks now about rivalry in terms of policies, or about conflicts and contradictions between the public and private sectors. Every official speaks about the encouragement of the private sector giving it a bigger role, and privatization has become a slogan. Liberal economy is a big objective, open borders and all other stated market-oriented policies are becoming official policies in Jordan. There has never been such a unanimous consensus on

96.3 FM reaches too far

By Eyad Ammari
Special to The Star

WITHOUT COMPETITION there would be no excellence. Without rating there would be no progress. Without guidance there would always be derailment.

Radio Jordan's English Service Disc Jockeys continue without excellence or progress, and the service itself seems to have deviated from its initial purpose that is laid in its constitution. With the absence of competitive radio stations and absence of commercials on the radio that would create ranking and rating for the jockeys, they seem to go on doing whatever pleases them on the radio without regard for the owners of their shows - the public listeners.

Many of the DJ's seem to have privatized the shows to themselves. A certain DJ sings half of the song before she stops talking. If she is such a good singer, why doesn't she quit the radio and join Madonna among the stars in Hollywood? The same DJ is always over-enthusiastic (for a better choice of words) but doesn't pay attention to what she says. With her tone of over-zealousness she once said, "... by Bob Marley, the guy who died of cancer." She didn't have the decency to say the "Late Bob Marley" or show any respect with saying "cancer" as if it was just one more piece of information. Having a close relative of mine diagnosed with cancer, I almost lost my mind at the way she was saying it. Privatization doesn't end there. We spent half of Christmas eve listening to the names of all the Radio Jordan DJ's with wishes for them. Some DJ's call the radio and ask for a song - why can't the whole country call and ask for a song? And probably without an exception, all DJ's send songs out "especially" to somebody. They're not answering letters, they're not hosting Listeners' Choice, they're simply playing songs to their friends. One DJ gave himself the liberty to say such sexist remarks as "... this song goes out to all the kool ladies, if you're not kool, well, I guess you should listen to it anyway." One of the DJ's seems to forget to prepare his show in advance so he repeats the previous day's show! With the service being funded by tax payers money, we demand to know who owns the shows on the radio?

It's fully understandable that nobody can complain about the choice of music, for every one has his/her own taste. And nobody can complain about the fact that music is being over-repeated, for we are aware of the flooding cuts that the radio had experienced since 1989. What is unrealistic is that DJ's are either cyborgenic, two minutes away from falling asleep or inexplicably hyper. One DJ who is always criticized for pronunciation mistakes happens to be the DJ that plays more music than anybody else. He announces the previous song, the coming songs and refrains from all unnecessary gibberish. He doesn't talk half way into the song and never offers you any information about the song (and the group) that you're going to miss hearing anyway if the DJ is still talking.

If all the time spent on unnecessary talk, announcing the one "exactly on radio Jordan" and announcing the long-awaited-for news was used for commercials, the radio would be in a much better state. The money can be used to pay higher wages for the DJ's therefore selecting more competent ones, and the radio would be able to buy more of the music that they're not buying now. Advertisements would force the rating of the DJ's according to the size of their audience. Good DJ's will become better and the worse ones will be moved away. But if advertisements are against the policy of the radio, then the management would have to do something about it. The service had deteriorated considerably the last few years. National polling would always give accurate indications and the radio can afford one of those annually. Ultimately, it remains up to the DJ's themselves to make themselves better. After all, they were all listeners at some point in time and maybe they should try to put themselves on the other side every once in a while.

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Courtesy of Eyad Ammari

Relaxation!

● The Central is one of the oldest traditional coffee shops in Amman. Strictly male, it is where people meet to enjoy an *Arigila* with a cup of tea or coffee. People from all walks of life, including workers, intellectuals and the unemployed come and meet to play cards, and Back Gammon. The Central is one of the traditional landmarks in Amman. It was due to be demolished but for the time being it looks like it has been reprieved.



Our Say...

Ending the impasse

THIS WEEK'S visit to Jordan by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal has effectively ended speculations about the state of Jordanian-Saudi relations. It was the first visit to Jordan by a senior Saudi official since the Gulf crisis and, in more than one way, it brought about hope and satisfaction to citizens of the two countries.

The normalization of relations with Saudi Arabia ends a bitter chapter in the history of the two countries. Both Amman and Riyadh have suffered from the breaking up of Arab ranks caused by Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in the summer of 1990. That rift, whose effects are still with us today, continues to haunt the Arab world from the Arabian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean.

Both Jordan and Saudi Arabia can play a pivotal role in bridging that rift and healing the wounds. That's why Prince Saud's statements in Amman about Iraq were significant. There is no difference between Amman and Riyadh over the need to end the suffering of the Iraqi people and in securing the territorial integrity of that important Arab country. This is a good start because the treatment of the Iraqi issue must begin at home—in the Arab world and among the Arabs.

The Arab countries, the majority of whom in agreement over putting an end to the human suffering in Iraq, must come together to work out an Arab solution to the Iraqi dilemma. Saudi Arabia and Jordan, two forces of stability and reasoning in the region, can contribute to bringing about a regional solution to one of the region's most complicated problems.

The fact that Jordan has normalized relations with most Gulf countries today is a plus. Overcoming the trauma of the Gulf War is a prerequisite to clearing the air so that vital inter-Arab issues can be discussed openly, pragmatically, realistically and candidly.

It will be foolish to assume that Arab relations will ever fully recover so long as Iraq remains absent from the arena while its people suffer en masse as a result of the sanctions regime. Sooner or later, the Arabs will have to face the facts and realize that reconciliation is the only way forward. This applies to bilateral relations between countries as it applies to inter-Arab relations.

The challenge of peace requires such visionary leaders. King Hussein has proved to be that leader. It is hoped that the restoration of normal ties with Saudi Arabia will usher in a regional mood of reconciliation.

While the Iraqi regime remains ostracized by the world community, Arab leaders should seek ways to help Iraq comply with UN resolutions in order to end its isolation. Rehabilitating Iraq will not be easy. But allowing that country to wither away is a catastrophe equal only to the loss of Palestine half a century ago.

The time is opportune to make bold initiatives aimed at ending the current impasse in inter-Arab relations. ■

Letters to the Editor

The advertising rap sheet

WHILE THE author of "Advertising in Jordan" in last Thursday's issue of *The Star*, is obviously rich in marketing and advertising terminology, he is at best misinformed, and sadly suffers from what we call "an inferiority complex" to anything with a foreign stamp on it.

Advertising in Jordan only started a few years ago, and while any new industry in any country takes years to evolve from infancy, local advertising as well as local production in Jordan has witnessed rapid growth and quality advancement surpassing any in an area relative to its age.

Local companies are currently good enough to service international organizations, but curiously not up to the standard and demands of our local industrialists!

Interestingly, many managers who suffer from the same disease as Mr Kandour and who sign contracts blindly with "international

companies" suddenly have an interesting rap sheet to engrave in such companies portfolios.

In addition, and for our friend's information, most companies he mentioned have existed in our country for way over two years. I wonder what then made the difference Mr Kandour dwells on! One would do well to check on who developed and produced the successful campaigns we see on our television.

Will our local "doctors" ever find a pill that will cure us from this epidemic, and open our eyes to the great talents our country yields, which by the way in many cases are behind the scenes of such professional "international" companies to whom we are greatly indebted. ■

Lamia Fakhoury, Amman

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Palestinian Council elections:

Avoiding problems of polarization

By Bashir Barghouti

THE COMING elections of the Palestinian Council are gaining momentum. Coupled with the awareness of the importance of these elections, there is a feeling of an urgent need for a coherent national unity, and the mobilization of the national potential to face the huge challenges expected to be awaiting the Palestine National Authority (PNA). There will be the negotiation of the final solution, the establishment of a civil democratic society, and the building of a national economy free from the shackles of occupation, to achieve progress and improve the living standard of the people.

It would be incorrect to assume that current calculations can be sustained during the coming period, without considering the different political, administrative, economic, and social factors that have developed since the PNA assumed its self-rule responsibility.

The impact of these factors will increase among the political forces. This is heightened by the PNA statements which confirm its independence and freedom in economic building, its lack of openness in regard to the restrictions imposed upon the PNA, and the objective obstacles which it encounters by virtue of being a self-rule authority on part of the Palestinian homeland under the re-deployment accord.

Though embryonic, the impact of these factors is apparent now in the large number of candidates in the elections, and the insufficient coordination of the candidacies, especially in the ruling party.

It goes without saying that the mechanisms which were suitable to subject the general struggle to serve the national goal now run short of meeting the requisites of the new stage of interaction between political and social goals, and the need to compromise between the aspirations of local cadres and

expatriates, especially in their social needs.

The leaders of society have their own logic and norms which are different from those of all political and armed underground struggle. Hence, the integration and interaction of the cadres of both kinds of leaders is not that easy.

Therefore, there will be much difficulty in achieving unity among those cadres if this process is not resolved first in each individual organization. A search for a national coalition would probably help to improve the existing picture, and minimize as much as possible the phenomenon of disentanglement in some forces' organizational structures, particularly that of the ruling party.

It is also wrong to think that the former forms of coalition, which characterized Palestinian action abroad, are valid as a basis for the search for the desired coalition.

That norm of coalition had its own merits of stationing the PLO leadership outside the homeland, and of the political and military need to work and address the world as



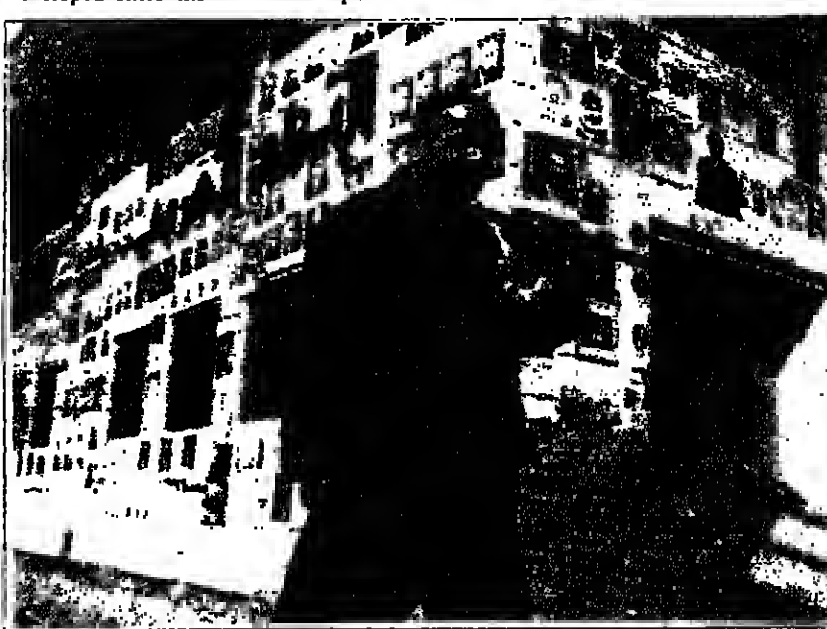
Khairi Janbek

a united body. However, the situation has changed, and the calculations of the PNA practices and policies have to pass through social channels. The generalization of the past are today translated into realities within the Palestinian society, with political representatives trying to reflect these realities from different social angles.

Hence, it should be admitted that this new travail of the Palestinian national movement may lead to the birth of new forces, the oblivion of others, and emergence of a new polarization inside the movement itself.

Such an issue has to be seriously considered if we are to successfully resolve the question of coalition. The more concrete the orientation towards the new realities, and their upcoming balances and dimensions, the more realistic and achievable is the coalition.

The writer is the general secretary of the Palestine People's Party.



Transition of power in Saudi Arabia

Prince Abdullah, a keen horseman, is said to be valued by the family for his rapport with the tribal bedouins. He is at home in Saudi Arabia's desert heartland, hunting with his falcons and living among the bedouins.

By Ian Black

PRINCE ABDULLAH bin Abdel Aziz, appointed by the ailing King Fahd to look after the affairs of the Saudi state, is a traditional figure who is expected to balance alliances without changing the western orientation of the world's foremost oil power.

At 71, the crown prince and first deputy prime minister is only slightly younger than the king. But he is in better health and has a solid reputation and a strong power base.

A commander of the 57,000 strong National Guard since 1963, he controls the regime's most important internal security organization and has resisted attempts to merge it with the armed forces that is headed by his half-brother Prince Sultan, the defence minister.

He is a half brother of King Fahd. Both are sons of Abdel Aziz bin Saud the founder of Saudi Arabia, but Prince Abdullah has a different mother.

The rapid announcement of the takeover was clearly intended to quash speculation about internal bickering over the succession—a theme that has been seized by Islamist dissidents, especially the London-based Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights.

In the past Prince Sultan has made no secret of his ambition to be king. He is King Fahd's full brother, one of the seven so-called "Sudain brothers", who are all sons of Ibn Saud's wife, Hassa Bint Ahmad Sudain.

Prince Sultan is admired by the United States, which remembers his friendly approach in the Gulf war. The US also admires Sultan's son, prince Bandar, the Saudi Ambassador in Washington.

By contrast, Prince Abdullah is thought to have been unhappy about the large and unprecedented US presence in the Kingdom during the campaign to liberate Kuwait.

On the Arab scene, Prince Abdullah has long been close to Syria—often dealing with a tricky President Hafez Al Assad—and has a Syrian wife. He favors good ties with Britain and France to balance over-dependence on Washington.

He is likely to maintain a cautious policy on the two key issues for Saudi foreign policy: the future of Iraq, battered by United Nations sanctions, and the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The announcement appears to confirm Prince Abdullah's position and experts say it doesn't matter whether it marks a temporary or permanent takeover of responsibility. King Fahd did not abdicate.

"This is the orderly transition" said an experienced Saudi watcher.

"This is what the crown prince is supposed to do. The real test will be what happens when Fahd dies: who will



King Fahd



Prince Abdullah

Abdullah appoint as crown prince."

Prince Abdullah, a keen horseman, is said to be valued by the family for his rapport with the tribal bedouins. He is at home in Saudi Arabia's desert heartland, hunting with his falcons and living among the bedouins. He is popular. He is thought not to speak English.

Any huge problems: lower oil revenues and huge Gulf-war costs were a rude shock and the kingdom is only now bringing its finances under control after a decade of soaring deficits. ■

The Guardian

Middle East Beat

by Khairi Janbek

Complementarity of peace

AFTER the attack on Jordan in some local and regional publications for its peace treaty with Israel, the emphasis has now shifted. What is now stressed is the lack of positive effects of the treaty, when compared with the efforts of Syria, Lebanon, and the self-rule areas.

Now that it is apparent that peace is on the agenda of all Arab parties and Israel, once again Jordan is being accused of phobias and unqualified criticism. It has been unashamedly said that the role of Jordan in the peace building process will be diminished considerably now that the Syrians are about to sign a peace agreement with Israel.

Forgetting that Jordan advocated a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and ardently supported a comprehensive peace treaty, we in Jordan, are supposed to begrudge our Syrian and Lebanese brothers' right for development and prosperity. It is hoped that the Jordanian position and vision for the future are assessed before such accusations and banal analysis are thrown on our doorstep.

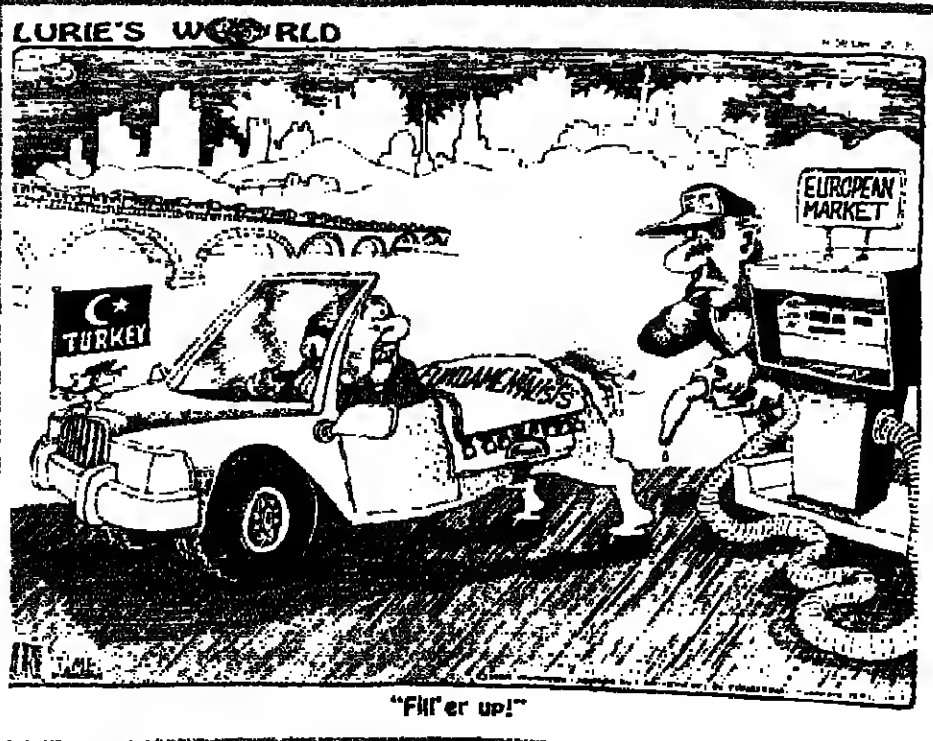
Countless times, HM King Hussein has clearly set out Jordan's plans for intra-regional cooperation and economic integration. Repeatedly HRH Crown Prince Hassan has reiterated His Majesty's words and hopes for our region to develop in the spirit and action of complementarity. How can Jordan hate for its Arab brothers what it wants for itself, knowing only too well that the future lies in cooperation and integration?

And why would Jordan's role be affected by the peace signature of any other Arab party with Israel, when it has its own specificity in the global and regional contexts, and realizes the truth that complementarity in the socio-economic aspects of the existence of the region, relies on the complementarity of the individual peace treaties? Comprehensive development, and integration in the world economy are totally dependent on comprehensive peace in the area, so Jordan has actually more to gain from the peace of the Syrians and Lebanese with Israel than the ignorant and shallow would have us believe.

As for the self-rule areas, we find ourselves, and in a parrot-like repetition reminding our Arab brothers that our country has nothing to fear from the emergence of an independent Palestinian state on its independent territory, but actively encourages it and backs its realization with all its capabilities. These intentions have been proven time and again morally and practically.

What is there to fear from the emergence of an independent Palestinian state? It is far easier for Jordan to build future relations and arrangements with an independent geographical entity that can decide for itself its own choices, than to deal with an entity without any legal definition, sovereignty, or status. Any future arrangement between Jordan and Palestine must be based on a partnership of equals that unites both people. History and fate have united both people and the two banks of the River Jordan complement each other and the one family. To accuse Jordan of fearing an independent Palestinian state, is the same as assuming that Jordan is in competition with it. This proposition is far from the truth, for each section of the one family is reliant on the other and the specificity of each is recognized in its own virtue. Jordan has plenty to gain from the creation of an independent Palestinian entity, least of all to cement its national unity and maintain its identity.

Jordan has nothing to fear, not even fear itself. The foreign policy of Jordan as set out by HM the King, based on good neighborly relations, and building the bridges of peace and understanding for the future development of the whole region, can only be achieved through comprehensive peace and stability.



"FIR' er up!"

THE last quarter of 1995 has been a record for Jordan's economy. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 4.5 per cent, while the unemployment rate fell to 10.5 per cent from 11.5 per cent in the same period last year.

The Jordanian economy is expected to continue its growth in 1996, with the government targeting a GDP growth of 5 per cent.

The Jordanian government has announced a new economic strategy for 1996, focusing on privatization and infrastructure development.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new budget for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 1.5 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new tax system for 1996, with a total revenue of JD 1.2 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new social security system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 1.0 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new health care system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.8 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new education system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.6 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new housing system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.4 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new transportation system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.2 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new communication system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new energy system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new environment system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new culture system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new tourism system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new sports system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

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The Jordanian government has also announced a new media system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new information system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new science system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

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The Jordanian government has also announced a new innovation system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new research system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new development system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new progress system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

The Jordanian government has also announced a new success system for 1996, with a total expenditure of JD 0.1 billion.

Business scene

■ During the last quarter of '95, Jordan received \$95 million from the Export-Import Bank of Japan, \$25 million from the European Union, and an \$80 million soft loan from the World Bank. The present balance of the Central Bank of Jordan in hard currencies is about \$450 million.

■ A telecommunication project in the country is currently underway at a cost of JD 140 million and will supply 400,000 new lines.

■ A DEM 3 million financial agreement was signed this week between Jordan and Germany. The grant agreement will be used by the Studies and Expert Fund, and presented by the German Construction Bank. Another DEM 3 million grant was also offered in technical aid to the improvement of agriculture in Jordan.

■ A JD 10 million financing agreement was signed between the Jordan Islamic Bank and Jordan Cement Co. The deal aims at providing financing for company's purchase of necessary machinery.

■ The CBJ will put into circulation a new JD 12 million worth of Certificates of Deposits next week for three and six month terms at a rate of 8.75% and 9.0%. The assets from these certificates at the CBJ now amount to JD 344.2 million.

■ The Civil Aviation Authority spent JD 4.94 million of its JD 5 million allotted budget last year. Out of the JD 6.8 million appropriations of current expenses, the authority spent only JD 6.5 million in 1995.

■ Water dams around the country have accumulated about 49,863,525 cubic meters, of which 6,914 million cubic metres are stored at the Arab Dam, 1,633,500 cubic metres at Shurabill Dam, and 40,996, 306 cubic metres at King Talal Dam.

■ At a value of \$250,000, an agreement to launch a "training program of women leadership" was signed between Noor Al Hussein Foundation and the German Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FEP).

Industry surpasses all other sectors in 1995

AMMAN (Star)—The industrial sector has witnessed a substantial expansion (77%), while the mining sector increased by (114%) during the last two years. These developments have increased their contribution in the fixed capital formation.

Official statistics show that, up to 1992, industry's contribution to capital formation in the country was almost 60% of that of the agriculture, trade, and hotel sectors. It is expected to increase in the coming years.

Statistics provided by the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) show that the total volume of investments of enlisted investors in industry amounted to JD 1115 million in 1995, compared to JD 1021 million, and JD 944 million in 1994 and 1993 respectively.

Such an expansion has led to a 6% growth against the 1990 and 1991 retrogressions. By these positive achievements, industry was able to supply the market with increasing items and consumer goods. It was able to provide basic material

needs to other sectors and services, such as steel, cement, lime, paints and wooden doors to the construction sector; fertilizers, green houses and drip-irrigation to agriculture; and oil and petrol derivatives, auto-batteries, pharmaceutical products, food stuffs, plastic appliances, clothes, soft paper tissues, leather-made items, cosmetics, and home accessories to the society as a whole.

The AFM's standard figure of the industry's production increased from 100 points in 1991 to 139 points by mid 1995, the CBI bulletin says.

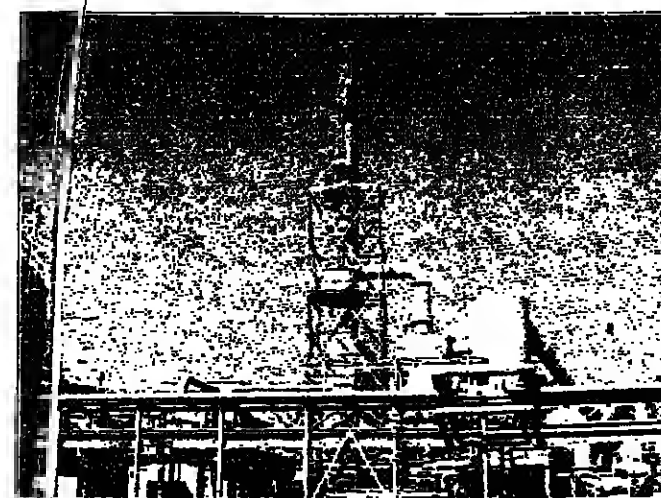
Fairs of national industrial products, which were organized at home and abroad, constituted effective marketing venues. Among others, the overall industrial exhibition of May 1995 was an outstanding event which succeeded in demonstrating national products and the contribution of industry to economic development.

In addition to its observance and adherence to international standards of production quality, the industry sector bears responsibility for the protection

of the environment from industrial pollution.

It also pays due attention to the development of small-scale industries, and observes the Labor Law with a view to maintaining a healthy and balanced relationship between the two sides of the production process.

With a future outlook, the national industry is seen as an effective factor of realizing economic security, self-



reliance, and encountering regional and international economic challenges. Furthermore, the industry is seen as a major element in the preservation of close business relations with Arab countries, whose markets receive about 50 percent of Jordan's exports.

Foreign Investment Law

AMMAN (Star)—Here are some articles of the new Foreign Investment Law that was recently passed by Parliament:

■ Article 3: Subject to article 5 and 6, any foreign investor can own all or part of any economic project.

■ Article 4: Foreign investor's capital should be transferred in foreign currency before the registration of his ownership. Capitalization of previous debt is allowed if it was originally transferred in foreign currency.

■ Article 5: Non-Jordanians can own up to 50% of any project in the following sectors: Land and air transport, construction

and contracting, trade, banking, insurance, communications, mining, agricultural harvesting, stores in AFM, press and media (25%).

■ Article 6: Subject to Article 5, non-Jordanians are allowed to buy shares in AFM provided non-Jordanian holdings in any shareholding company do not exceed 50% except if this limit has already been exceeded.

■ Article 7: Minimum non-Jordanian investment in any project is JD 50,000 except for investment in AFM where the minimum is JD 1,000.

Jordan:

Development in a changing world

AMMAN (Star)—Owing to its position during the Gulf War, Jordan was exposed to the danger of "being enmeshed in endless disquisitions," says Dominique Graber in the December '95 issue of the Paris-based Banque Paribas Conjoncture. With a population of 4.1 million, Jordan can be proud of "being one of the International Monetary Fund's best pupils, while the recent Amman Summit... helped to restore its image of dependability," she added.

Having backed peace well before its Arab neighbors, Jordan enjoys full American protection as one of the driving forces in the peace process, but at the same time it has not fallen out with the Arab countries, Graber says.

While the adjustment process is progressing, there are still weaknesses. With its narrow, service-oriented industrial base, Jordan is going to be more sensitive than any other country to the internal and external political shocks that the region will continue to generate. Also, there are potential social risks in the clear gap between the elite classes, already convinced of liberalism, and the mass population who have both to forget the "end of Israel" myth and adapt to a market economy.

The IMF's first adjustment plan was in 1989. After being revised in the wake of the exogenous shocks, its targets have been systematically exceeded since 1993. Having borne the brunt of the oil countershock, the Jordanian economy recorded a 13.5% fall in GDP in 1989. With the advent of the Gulf crisis, Jordan felt that it could not allow itself to abandon Iraq; the latter country was, after all, its main partner, taking up one quarter of its exports, and its sole oil supplier. The conflict resulted in a fall of nearly 50% in Jordan's

exports to Iraq, and led to the repatriation of 500,000 emigrant workers in the Gulf. While well trained and in many cases bringing substantial wealth with them, they nevertheless had to integrate into a working population of 580,000. However, Jordan recovered quickly from this triple external shock, growth reaching 1.7% in 1991 after a 0.2% downturn in 1990.

In its latest scenario, the IMF forecasts an average growth of 5.5% over the next 10 years, which appears sustainable in the absence of new major external shocks.

The budget deficit excluding grants, which reached 21.7% of GDP in 1987, was back to 3.4% in 1994, while the 1995 budget forecasts a deficit equal to 3.6% of GDP. Most of the effort has been devoted to reducing expenditure, which accounted for 46.2% of GDP in 1987 and 37.4% in 1994. Even if the government claims to want to reduce subsidies (1% of GDP), there is little likelihood of public spending being cut significantly. Peace will probably not result in further reductions in defense spending (11.7% in 1987 and 8.7% in 1994) since security is a key factor in political stability. Continued fiscal consolidation means increasing revenue (25% of GDP in the 1980s; 32.4% in 1993). A feature of the revenue structure is the low yield from income and corporation tax because various exemptions and allowances still remain.

The share of indirect taxation is growing (19.5% of all tax and non-tax receipts in 1990, compared with 24.2% in 1994). The introduction of value added tax in 1997 should further improve the tax yield.



Also improving is the current-account balance. While the reduction in customs duties and stability of the dinar are boosting imports of consumer and capital goods, the foreign balance is no longer threatened by this phenomenon. Customs tariffs are being lowered fairly progressively (they are still at 50% on average) so as not to cause a devastating surge in imports, a large proportion of which are financed by repatriated capital. Exports, too, are performing well, having increased by 15% in 1994 over 1993 and by 35% for the quarter ending August 1995 compared with the previous three months.

Economic liberalism and

encourage the conversation of low-interest-earning foreign currency deposits (mainly the dollar) into dinar deposits. The dinar's stability against the dollar (a downward shift of only 2.5% since 1991) is, moreover, one of the most effective ways of achieving price stability.

Like any country which has renegotiated its debt, Jordan will continue to feel the effects for some time. Net foreign debt will reach \$6 billion by the end of 1995, i.e. some 87% of GDP. While debt-equity conversions and debt redemptions are continuing, the government no longer expects there to be any debt cancellations, but predicts gradual fall in the debt/GDP ratio.

Jordan's performance is

vastly superior to those of the Maghreb/Mashrek countries. Jordan remains dependent on the outside world for its energy supplies. However it is now setting out to diversify its sources and, in order not to be dependent solely on Iraqi oil, it is now switching more to Saudi natural gas, of which there are reported also to be deposits in Jordan itself.

The only raw materials available to Jordan are potash and phosphates. Jordan is in fact the world's second largest exporter of phosphates after Morocco. It is increasingly seeking to build up the value added of the products exported (fertilizers, chemicals, etc). Joint ventures have been created with Asian partners to be able to count on export markets. In addition, Jordan is developing the manufacture of pharmaceuticals—with considerable success, to judge by the growth in exports. The high quality of Jordanian doctors and its hospitals, attracts "medical tourists" from neighboring countries, which gives credibility to this branch of activity.

The main source of foreign exchange earnings is tourism. The country has a number of outstanding archaeological sites, which need to be promoted. The Dead Sea and Aqaba can be exploited as sites for seaside holidays. Thanks to the progress of the peace process, there has been a tendency towards diversification in the geographic origin of visitors, with the proportion of Europeans and Americans rising very appreciably.

Although the sector seems to offer interesting possibilities for expansion, there is no hiding the fact that this activity is, by its nature, highly fragile, being vulnerable to earthquakes and to political conditions. The tourist industry will also have to keep a close watch on the competition at regional and world levels.

Paradoxically, the advantage in the eyes of potential investors which is political stability, is also fragile.

Jordan is today at a crossroads. The excellent performance in terms of the main economic aggregates should not be allowed to conceal the delay in settling the crucial problem of water, which is the key to any negotiation in the region and which at the same time exposes the social backlog needing to be made up.

Business Chronicle

Investment prospects in 1996

The performance of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) has been weak during the last three years, and particularly in 1995.

Though the economic reform program was advancing as recommended by the World Bank and IMF, the inflow of external investment was not coming in as envisaged. It was hanging in the air waiting for the endorsement of new investment promotion laws. Evidence of this is the freezing of investment applications of 36 foreign corporations worth JD 154 million, this year.

Today, under the new conditions and favourable investment regulations, foreign investment funds will provide a new source of demand on stock trading, create a more active mobility, and adjust the new supply of investments to the tenuous situation at the AFM. Indeed, foreign currency reserves filled in the stock demand gap, but there is always the need to promote domestic earnings by external revenues to finance the expenses of investment operations, as Dr Umayya Toukan, the AFM general manager put it.

An annex to the Investment Promotion Law was adopted last month by the Government. It allows, for the first time, foreign investors to directly enter and trade in the market through brokers, thus ending the former obligatory license in advance by the Government.

Dr Toukan said last week that owing to the proper investment climate that was created in regulatory terms in the fall of 1995, foreign purchase operations had already started, though it is difficult to assess their volume before six months have passed. He added that, through his countless visits to American and European investment funds, many an official came to Jordan to explore its emerging market for their investments.

Nevertheless, such a process of attracting foreign investments cannot be realized at one stroke. It is irrational to think of their powerful inflow before feasibility studies are accomplished. Hence the long-term investments which add to the \$4.2 billion market value of the AFM.

Toukan said that AFM investors are hopeful of millions of dollars of foreign investments in 1996. They also see that the AFM will be included, or integrated, in other inaugurated Middle Eastern funds where foreign investments are already operating. Very shortly, the AFM will take a step to promote its competitiveness to attract foreign funds. That is a joint listing of preferred shares with the Bahrain Financial Market, and at a later stage with the Muscat Stock Market. The same step will be taken with the Nablus-based Palestinian Financial Market to be set up in the near future.

MARKETING

Advertising regulation—better for all involved

There is a hand-cream product (which will remain nameless) whose billboards have sprouted like "navy-blue and white mushrooms" all over our capital. It may be good publicity for those marketing this world renowned product, but is it legal? And "why?" you might ask, "should I be asking myself that question?"

The reason is this; many of the locations that have these billboards were hitherto disallowed, or restricted, for reasons known best to the Municipality of Amman. It is the municipality that makes these decisions, earning a yearly fee of JD100 for each 1.5m x 3m billboard that is placed within the city limits. "When" the small businesses that design and make these billboards ask, "did it become O.K. to use these prime visibility locations, that have been denied us for so long?"

The problem stems from a lack of consistency in the policies surrounding the "do's" and "don'ts" of billboard advertising, at the municipality. Clearly, the question of where billboards can, and cannot be erected are part of the city's planning procedures... aren't they? The second culprit in this scenario is "invisible." That is to say "it" doesn't exist yet. Who am I referring to? The organization, representing the various aspects of the Jordanian advertising industry, whose purpose, among others, would be to resolve issues such as these with the help of the municipality. There is a clear need for such a representative body to be developed and funded by the advertising industry, who stands to gain from its existence. The reason is simply this, if you were a client, a market manager who recommended erecting several billboards around town to your board of directors, wouldn't you like to know that there is no fear that your billboard will be torn down by the municipality soon afterwards, due to some misunderstanding...?

As I mentioned in last week's column, our advertising industry is growing, and with this growth probably comes the need to work within more clearly defined structures. Not only will the advertising clients (Jordanian businesses) benefit by the advertising industry keeping tabs on their members' ethical procedures, but so will the municipality—it would certainly do away with a lot of the headache that is entailed by erecting a simple billboard!

Being fairly new at this role of writing articles, I would be very interested to know what you think of the "Marketing" column... do you agree? Do you think I'm blowing hot air... or if you have anything you would like to add, please let me know. Write to The Star newspaper at Fax no 648298 and let me have it! Thanks, Yanal Kandour.

Foreign Exchange

Wednesday, 10 JANUARY 1996

	Buy JD	Sell JD
	0.7080	0.7100
	1.0971	1.1026
	0.4818	0.4943
	0.6083	0.6113
	0.1434	0.1441
	0.6726	0.6726
	0.4392	0.4314
	0.0450	0.0452

MARKET WATCH

Highest and lowest performing stocks in the Amman Financial Market

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Engineering 1.25 Int'l Education & Industry 1.78 National Industries 0.98 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arab Investment & Trade 4.55 El-Zay Ready Wear Mfg. 1.80 Jordan Petroleum Refinery 1.10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Int'l. Education & Ulvavet 3.49 United Organic Transport 2.69 Arab Pharm. Industry 2.55 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nayzak Dies & Moulds 5.71 Trade Industries 3.35 Arab Financial Investment 3.06
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Land Development 3.22 Arab Banking Corporation 4.96 Middle East Complex 5.33 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> United Land Development 4.59 Nayzak Dies & Moulds 4.19 Middle East Complex 4.93 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper Converting 5.56 Central Storage & Trade 5.33 Middle East Complex 5.19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middle East Trade Develop 51.00 Trade & Storage Center 41.99 Middle East Complex 25.98
General Price Pointer 153.989	135.348	154.570	1154.310
Trade Volume 491530	462289	1184028	1 045924
Stock Volume 192651	227879	404652	488390

Highest Traded Stocks	Arab Bank 171.846	Modern Industries 80.266	Tourism And Hotel 450.000	Bytoun Bank 288.500
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All data provided by

Tel: 646868 Fax: 6 46949

OPIC finances concrete project in Gaza

WASHINGTON—The Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) has announced that it is funding \$1.1 million of a two million dollars commitment to an American-Palestinian joint venture that builds prefabricated concrete structures in Gaza.

A press release from the U.S. agency said it was taking this action after noting that there is "renewed confidence for economic stability and U.S. investment potential in the Middle East."

OPIC, now 25 years old, is a self-sustaining federal agency that encourages private U.S. investment in some 140 developing nations worldwide. Since 1971, the agency says it has supported \$84.000 million, generating about \$43.000 in U.S. exports and creating 200,000 American jobs.

"OPIC is proud to be a part of a project that is laying the foundation for eco-

conomic growth in the Middle East," OPIC President Ruth R. Harkin said. "This project confirms OPIC's commitment to regional peace and prosperity by supporting private U.S. investment."

The project is the first American investment in Gaza and the first project to receive both OPIC financing and political risk insurance in Gaza. The funds were disbursed to Buechit International Limited to expand its manufacturing plant in southwest Gaza City.

The press release issued by OPIC on December 26 added:

"The project's U.S. sponsors, Kurt, Leisel and Erich Buechit, are based in Boardman, Ohio. They entered into a joint venture with Palestinian

investors and began manufacturing prefabricated construction materials in Gaza in March 1995. The company utilizes a patented precast building system that expedites construction and is capable of producing about 440 square meters of finished structures a day, equivalent to four small apartments. The company has already completed projects throughout Gaza, including a new customs post, an addition to the local police headquarters, and school rooms in Deir al-Balah, and has begun constructing a perimeter fence for the new airport."

Buechit will use OPIC's loan, according to the release, to purchase new equipment and finance working capital that will enable the company to have enough supplies and better control over equipment maintenance.

It added: "Given the great construction demand in Gaza, this project is particularly timely as it helps alleviate the shortage of building materials and supplies in the area. Already employing some 20 local workers, with the possibility of hiring a total of 120 people, this venture provides needed jobs in an area of high unemployment. OPIC's support has helped U.S. investors enter a new market and also supports American jobs as the project will use American-made cranes, trucks and trailers to help with the construction."

Killing of bomber is break for Israeli secret service

By Mary Curtius
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

JERUSALEM—The Shin Bet isn't claiming responsibility for it, but the assassination of Palestinian bomber Yehiya Ayash is the first break in weeks for Israel's secret service, whose agents failed to protect Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin from an assassin's bullets in November.

"It's a shame that Yitzhak didn't live to see this day," the prime minister's widow, Leah Rabin, was quoted as saying of Ayash's death. Her comments reflected the sense of satisfaction expressed by many Israelis after the news broke that one of their most feared and hated enemies had apparently fallen victim to their once-revered but

recently maligned General Security Services, or Shin Bet. Ayash's assassination was the sort of pinpoint, complex operation that Israel's security services have built their reputation on in the Jewish state's decades-long struggle against Palestinian attacks on civilian and military targets. It will do much to refurbish the Shin Bet's image, badly damaged by Rabin's shooting at the hands of a Jewish right-wing fanatic, Israeli commentators said.

The Shin Bet is still reeling from a state commission of inquiry's decision to put six of its officers, including the head of the service, on notice for their potential culpability through negligence in Rabin's death. Ayash's slaying came as the committee nears the end of its investigation.

"(Ayash) was target No. 1—not only for the security services, but for the whole state of Israel," said Amnon Abramovitz, a commentator on security affairs for state-run Israel Television. Ayash's assassination "creates a new public atmosphere toward the Shin Bet, which is very important while they are facing the commission of inquiry," Abramovitz said.

"It won't change the outcome, but the committee can't ignore the fact that the Shin Bet carried this out while they are under a very heavy inquiry," Abramovitz said. Ayash, known as "The Engineer" for his skill at constructing bombs used in a string of Palestinian suicide attacks on Israelis, died last Friday when a cellular phone he was using exploded. Israel has neither claimed responsibility for the killing nor denied involvement in it, but the news first broke on Israel Radio. Both the self-governing Palestinian Authority and Hamas, the militant Islamic movement to which Ayash belonged, blamed Israel for the killing.

During its regular weekly Cabinet meeting Saturday, the Palestinian Authority formally condemned Israel for the assassination and said that the killing violated the Israeli-PLO peace accords and Palestinian sovereignty.

Speaking at a rally in the West Bank town of Dura, Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat hailed Ayash as a martyr.

"We have made the peace of the brave. We are committed to it. We ask the other side not to violate this peace, (not) to enter Palestinian territory in Gaza and kill and assassinate the struggler, the martyr, Yehiya Ayash," Arafat said.

"This violates what we agreed upon. We ask them (the Israelis) to stop tampering in Palestinian territory," Palestinians observed a general strike last Sunday as part of a three-day formal mourning period for Ayash. But the Palestinian Authority has declared neither a

suspension of contacts with Israel nor a delay or cancellation of the upcoming Palestinian elections.

The Palestinian Authority announced it is forming an investigative committee, headed by security chief Mohammed Dahlan and including Hamas leaders, to examine the circumstances of Ayash's death. The Palestinians said they have already arrested five Palestinians suspected of working with Israel to carry out the plot. Hamas spokesmen declared their informal moratorium on attacking Israelis over and urged the Palestinian Authority to return whatever weapons it has confiscated from Hamas gunmen in recent months.

"This incident will have a very negative impact. The period of calm has been completely blown up," Hamas spokesman Jamil Hamami said. "This killing left the Palestinian street frustrated and with a lack of confidence in the political process. Now, in my assess-

ment, the peace process has suffered a blow in terms of its credibility on the Palestinian street."

But Israeli political leaders brushed aside suggestions that the timing of the assassination—coming less than two weeks before the scheduled 20 January Palestinian elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—was inappropriate. "There's no need to consider political tim-



Ayash



The Gaza house where Yehiya Ayash was assassinated.

ing in regard to killing murderers," said Hagai Merom, chairman of the parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

"When it comes to the struggle against terrorism and the crystallization of a chance to kill such an engineer, who was one of the most lethal and terrible things that Israel suffered through in the past few years, there's not a question of timing for such a thing," Merom said. "When there is a moment, a possibility, one can't sit and bide into account the meaning of elections and the hardship this could cause to the Palestinian Authority."

Israel took precautions after the killing, sealing off the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel, forbidding Israelis who do not live there to travel in the territories and putting its security forces on a higher state of alert both here and abroad. The Israelis also suspended joint security patrols with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But an Israeli specialist Yooch Alexander, said that he has no doubt that Hamas or Islamic Jihad, will seek revenge for Ayash's death. "The entire world is a front line," Alexander told Israel Radio on Sunday. "It is not a question of if (a retaliation attack) is going to happen, but when and where it is going to happen."

But Alexander, a guest lecturer at Tel Aviv University, said that the likelihood of retaliation should never deter Israel from going after men like Ayash.

The army wants your off-Road wheels

By Mary Curtius
Los Angeles Times

JERUSALEM—FIFTY Israeli yuppies who just want to hit the off-road track in his four-wheel drive vehicle. Although the nation is wealthier and more at peace than it has ever been, the Army just issued a jolting reminder that Israel still needs even those lucky enough to afford an off-road vehicle. Well, at least it needs their cars.

In what the Army insists is standard procedure, it recently sent notices to owners of Land Rovers, Jeeps, Mercedes, Toyotas and other four-wheel drive vehicles, informing them that in times of emergency or national crisis, they may be called upon to hand over their cars to the Army until further notice. To prepare for such an emergency, owners were also told they must participate in occasional drills to demonstrate they can get their vehicles to a designated Army collection site on short notice.

"This is not a question of yuppification. This is a question of fulfilling the Army's needs," said an Army spokesman. But owners of the coveted off-road vehicles are howling in protest.

"I didn't buy a Land Rover for \$75,000 to give it to a tank in the Army for training exercises," fumed Medad Yonai, 35, a Tel Aviv businessman. "These days, everybody speaks about peace—even with Syria. Who talks about war? So why is the Army talking about this?"

Yonai said he and other owners have discussed taking their case to Israel's Supreme Court, should the Army ever make good on its vehicle grab.

"It is like the Army will suddenly decide to confiscate someone's house, just because he happens to live on the border and they want to use it as an observation post," Yonai said. "They can't just take private property like this."

Reaction to the notice says much about how drastically Israel is changing in this era of peace and prosperity. Not too long ago, when Israelis were poorer, the nation was more threatened and fewer people owned cars, such a call would not have raised a murmur of protest.

"Twenty years ago, 10 years ago, people were more patriotic. I think," said Yaki Shikrei, owner of a commercial off-road vehicle club with about 400 active members. "People used to say: 'Whatever they need, give them. This is our country.' Now, people don't feel that way."

Indeed, some owners went so far as to accuse the Army of singling out yuppies and their vehicles out of sheer spite, a claim both the Army and commentators dismiss with scorn.

"From the beginning of the history of the state, station wagons and trucks and commercial vans were enlisted in times of war."

Haaretz columnist Amnon Danziger wrote, after Israeli newspapers ran stories on the complaining yuppies. "But the yuppies are rebelling. The vehicles in question are private and expensive vehicles that are dear to their owners and give them a social standing."

Danziger described the protesting owners as "men who don't mind going off to war or sending their children off to war, but a scratch on their car would kill them."



By Doug Struck
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

ISTANBUL—Smoke dimmed the air of the Real Eagle coffeehouse in a poor working-class neighborhood of Istanbul. At mid-afternoon, the place was full of glum men with no jobs. A coal stove only dulled the raw cold, and the men sat hunched in thick wool coats and caps, sipping apple tea and smoking.

Abdul Gaffer, 25, leaned burly forearms on the rough wood table. A skilled mason, he could ask \$9 a day when he worked, and that was only a few times a week. He could barely feed his five children. He voted for the Islamic party in hopes of a change. "We have tried all the other parties. It is time to try the Islamists," he said.

The Islamic party victory in the 24 December national elections startled the establishment here, accustomed to a strong secular Turkey with a tradition of separating religion and state.

The election results raised even more alarm in the West. Turkey is an important member of NATO and the base for the American-led no-fly zone over northern Iraq. It is the Europe-friendly bulwark against the rise of Islamic fundamentalism and the turmoil of the Middle East.

All of those are called into question by the Islamic Refah—or Welfare Party—now the largest faction in the Parli-

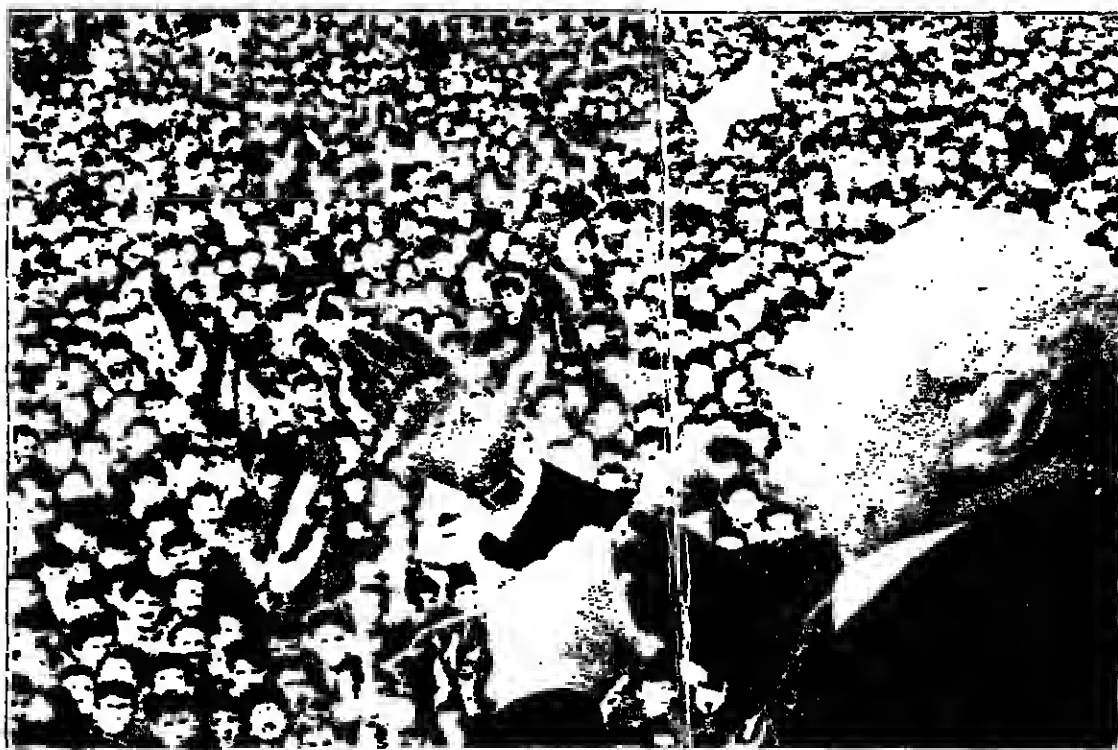
ment. "From now on, Turkey's view of the world and the world's view of Turkey has changed," proclaimed Necmettin Erbakan, the party's leader.

During the campaign, he called for "an Islamic United Nations, an Islamic NATO and an Islamic version of the European Union." He promised to abolish interest on money, improve relations with Iran and Iraq and oppose "world imperialism, Zionism, Israel and the handful of champagne-drinking collaborators."

Tansu Ciller, prime minister since 1992, called the election a choice between "civilization and darkness." Erbakan, a 69-year-old German-trained engineer, has softened his stands since the vote. Last week he told reporters in Ankara: "We have no animosity toward anyone. Quite the opposite, developing all kinds of relations will be to the advantage of both Turkey and the West."

But Erbakan's fiery promises have helped the Welfare Party gain in every election since 1989.

This ballot success has thrown the Turkish government into turmoil. No party



Necmettin Erbakan, the leader of the Islamic Welfare Party cheers the crowd into victory.

won a majority. The Welfare Party won 21 percent.

Flexing political muscle

Turkey's Islamic revolution

Islam in Turkey: Coming full circle

ISTANBUL—The Islamic upsurge in Turkey comes as Islam's strength grows throughout the Middle East. At the Tefik Cifci Islamic school in the center of Ankara, boys dressed in jackets play basketball at recess and go to separate classes from girls dressed in uniforms and white head scarves.

Two of the girls—Sude Diner, 16, and Kubra Ersin, 15—barely stop for a breath in their enthusiastic explanation of why they like going to a religious school.

"My dad tells me that if I wear a scarf on my head it will please God," says Diner. "Four years ago, people couldn't understand why I was wearing a scarf. Now, more are trying to understand."

The shortcomings of other public schools have parents clamoring to send their children to the Islamic school, says schoolmaster Mustafa Ucanu. He can accept only four of 10 applicants.

Mustafa Karim Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. When he began the republic in 1923, Ataturk vehemently rejected the Islamic trappings of the old Ottoman Empire that ruled the Middle East and parts of Europe for more than five centuries.

He moved the capital from its splendid Ottoman headquarters in Istanbul to the relative backwater of Ankara. He banned the "fez" hat, and the head scarf for women, changed the written script from Arabic to Latin, replaced the Islamic code with Swiss laws, and shunned Islam's Friday day of prayer to create a Western-style weekend of Saturday and Sunday.

Ataturk died in 1938, but he still is widely venerated. His imposing mausoleum on a hill overlooking Ankara is a shrine for new-lowed and vacationers.

LA Times-Washington Post News Service

The conservative but secular Motherland Party was a close second with 19.65 percent, followed by Ciller's True Path Party with 19 percent.

Until some combination of parties join to form a majority coalition, Turkey limps along with a caretaker government. Ciller and the other secular party leaders are negotiating to form a coalition without Refah. Whatever the outcome, Erbakan's 19 Parliament members will be major players.

"Whether Refah is in the government or not it's going to have an impact on domestic and foreign policy," says a Western envoy in Ankara. "The other parties are going to be more solicitous of Islam."

Turkey is 99 percent Muslim. Reminders of its place as ruler of the last great Islamic empire punctuate the skyline of every major city—stunning round-roofed mosques with multiple minarets that reach gracefully heavenward. Yet the

image of Islam in Turkey is of a more nonchalant, nonthreatening version than the Islam of the devout Shiite mullahs in Iran, or the anxious introverts of Saudi Arabia. Many of Turkey's Muslims drink. They celebrate the Western New Year holiday. They don't talk about the West as Satan.

"Islam is an Arab religion, and Arab culture. The Turkish mentality is different," argues Serif Tasman, director of the Foreign Policy Institute in Ankara. "We treat Islam like a religion, just like Catholics or Protestants, not a way of life." Abululla Gul disagrees. "The citizens in Turkey are out of touch with their own people," says Gul, vice chairman of Refah. "They had their chance in power. Now Refah is going up."

In a small rural mosque in the muddy outskirts of Istanbul, Omar Vanliglu sits cross-legged on a carpet, stroking his wild gray beard under a white

turban. "Every day, there are more people coming to the mosque. Just as the farmers and peasants are coming to Islam, so, eventually, will the deputies in Parliament and the government," he says.

Abraham Topal, 37, a restaurant owner near Izmir, is an enthusiastic supporter of Turkey's Western-looking visio.

"The religion should be for the people themselves, not the government," he says. Adds his wife, Gul Topal, a teacher: "Too many people talk about religion. We don't need more preachers. We need more doctors and teachers and engineers."

Islamic supporters in Turkey say the secular government has discriminated against Muslims. "There is no freedom of belief in Turkey," says Yasemin Keskin, 20, in a suburban house in Istanbul. She is covered in a black gown, save for her hands and an opening in the cloth that frames a delicate

face. "We are not permitted to (take off work to) pray on Fridays. We are not permitted to go to a university if we cover our heads."

Many remain wary of mixing religion and politics. At the grand Kocatepe Mosque in Ankara, said to be the largest in Turkey, Sabri Unal, 55, trudges through drizzling rain to pray, as he does five times a day. He thinks little of the Welfare Party.

"Refah will not be good for Islam," he says. "If they form a government and have problems, then it will be blamed on Islam. The Muslim religion is between God and a person. He doesn't need a party in between."

Sharef Kilic, 23, does support Refah. He is a custodian at the mosque, and carries his prayer rug and wears an Islamic knitted skullcap.

"An Islamic government will be better," he says. But even Kilic dismisses the

West's nightmares about an Islamic Turkey. "It wouldn't be like Iran," he scoffs. "This is Turkey."

In fact, election analysts say as much as half of Refah's 21 percent vote came not from ardent Islamists, but from those protesting the failure of the other parties to curb Turkey's 80 percent annual inflation and chronic unemployment.

They want economic change, not strict Islamic law—called the Shariah.

"I can't even get people to buckle their seat belt. They sure aren't going to follow the Shariah," laughs taxi driver Mustafa Akbaruk.

Turkey is seeing a mass migration from the countryside to the big cities. Many of those migrants, like Gaffer and the men in the Real Eagle coffeehouse, came from rural southeastern Turkey only to find themselves stuck in poverty in shantytowns or bleak housing projects outside the big cities.

Most politicians have only paid them lip service, they complain. The Welfare Party honed a grass-roots approach that would impress a Chicago ward boss. The party gradually has won control of more than 400 local governments in Turkey.

Gurkan Ceylan, 27, is a doctor in the free medical clinic opened after the Welfare Party won the local election in 1994.

"People know that Refah is helping people, and not just coming around at times of election like the other parties," he said.

Seeing such examples, many in Turkey are less fearful of the Islamic party than those in the West. Some say the answer to their growing power is to give them a chance to head the government.

"The economic situation of the country is such that whoever takes over is not going to get far," said Ilmur Cevik, editor of the Turkish Daily News, in an interview. "If the Islamic party were given a chance to run the government, in the next election they would lose."

"If you just write them off, you leave this myth that if the Islamists came to power they would have done it better."

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By William Drozdiak
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

Francois Mitterrand dead at age 79

A leader who left his mark on European history

FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, France's former president whose remarkable intellectual powers and Machiavellian political skills propelled his ascent as one of Europe's most prominent leaders in the latter part of the 20th century, died Monday of prostate cancer. He was 79 years old.

Unlike his nemesis, Charles de Gaulle, who claimed to be inspired and driven by a singular vision of France, Mitterrand often changed his views and convictions with astonishing speed. He relished pragmatism over grandiose ideals, and that trait alone helped him survive long stretches in the political wilderness.

"My strategy is to have only tactics," Mitterrand said, explaining the frequent course corrections—from conservatism to socialism and back to something in the middle—through a career that baffled and infuriated friends and foes alike. In later years, he became known as "The Sphinx" because of his enigmatic and unpredictable nature.

Mitterrand was elected president in 1981 and 1988. His 14 years in office, which ended last May when, already seriously ill, he handed the reins of power to rival Jacques Chirac, made him the longest-serving French president in history.

As the most visible component of his legacy, Mitterrand leaves behind a series of mammoth building projects that changed the face of Paris—IM Pei's glass pyramid in the courtyard of the Louvre, the great modernist arch at La Defense commercial develop-

ment, the new Bastille opera house, the new National Library. Critics said these projects reflected Mitterrand's grandiose sense of his place in French history; others praised his contribution to one of the world's most civilized cities.

As news of his demise spread, praise for Mitterrand's political achievements poured in from fellow politicians. They were led by a salute from Chirac, who hailed in particular Mitterrand's quest for unity among European nations—especially between France and Germany.

"He advanced the construction of Europe with determination," said Chirac. "A great figure has left, and I salute him with emotion and with respect."

"Not only France but the United States and the entire world benefited from his leadership," said President Clinton. "He was a man of vision whose strength helped bring Europe and the West through a period of tough confrontation to the peaceful, undivided Europe we are building today."

"Europe has lost a great statesman... I mourn for a good friend," said German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who worked closely with Mitterrand to forge the Maastricht Treaty on European union.

Mitterrand is to be buried Thursday morning in a private funeral in the southwestern town of Jarnac, where he was born. Georges Klejman, his close friend and a former justice minister, said Mitterrand did not want a state funeral. However, a ceremony will be held in Paris on Thursday, which has been declared a national day of mourning, to allow the public to pay tribute to the former president, the Reuter news agency reported.

Mitterrand took a special delight in political theatrics, whether it involved laying a single red rose at the crypt of Socialist Party founder Jean Jaures in the wake of his election as president in 1981, or making a surprise trip to Sarajevo when the Serb siege severed the Bosnian capital from the outside world.

The author of 10 books, Mitterrand was fond of literary life and would often prowling the bookstores near his Left Bank apartment or the Elysee presidential palace. He would reach for Montaigne and Plato as his preferred reading and was so well steeped in the lessons of Europe's war-torn past that George Bush once remarked that he knew of no other leader with Mitterrand's grasp of history.

But he was also a man of worldly passions, with an intense love of travel, golf, fine cuisine and attractive women. He revelled in the beauty of the French landscape, taking long walks in the company of friends and family near his retreat in Latche, a village in southwestern France.

Nonetheless, it was his extraordinary political odyssey that will earn Mitterrand a special niche in history next to de Gaulle as one of the most influential politicians to shape France's destiny in this century.

After flouting the ultra-nationalist right during his student days in Paris before World War II, Mitterrand became a key centrist figure vehemently



A daring visit to Sarajevo



A great figure has left



Forging an alliance with Kohl

opposed to the Communists and served 11 times as a government minister during the chaotic political jumble of the postwar Fourth Republic.

He rapidly solidified his reputation as a man prepared to trim his sails according to the prevailing political winds. But his career was nearly swamped by France's colonial crisis in Algeria in the early 1950s. As interior minister, he refused to negotiate with Algerian rebels, a decision that took France down the path toward a war that would traumatize the country.

Once his enemy de Gaulle returned to power in 1958 and shifted French policy in favor of Algerian independence, Mitterrand seemed finished as a politician. A year later, the notorious "Observatory affair" appeared to drive the final nail in his coffin, subjecting him to ridicule and shattering his credibility.

Mitterrand claimed that he was being targeted for assassination, and one night his car was tailed and shot at by unidentified gunmen in Paris. He escaped over the rail of the Observatory garden unharmed. Later, a police inquiry led to the arrest of a yogurt salesman, who insisted Mitterrand had hired him to carry out the attack in the hope it would revive his political fortunes.

Mitterrand said he was being smeared by Gaullist enemies, but the case was dropped and the truth was never established.

It was a humiliating episode that would have destroyed many politicians, but Mitterrand again showed his uncanny ability to bounce back from apparent disaster. He moved into the leadership vacuum of the anti-Gaullist opposition and eventually took over the reins of the nearly defunct Socialist Party by shifting his loyalty to the left.

Soon he emerged as the champion of the united left, linking the Socialists in an uneasy alliance with the Communists. In 1981, after two failed tries at the presidency, he defeated Valery Giscard d'Estaing to realize, at age 64, his lifelong ambition of becoming France's head of state.

Once in power, he showed no compunction about embracing positions that he had once excoriated.

After chastising de Gaulle for developing France's independent nuclear program when

in opposition, Mitterrand became one of its staunchest defenders as a president who upheld France's role as a middleweight nuclear power.

When the French economy was threatened by capital flight after the left took power, he reversed course with austere policies that jettisoned Socialist dogma and restored faith in the franc.

In his second seven-year term, which began in 1988, Mitterrand sought to consolidate his place in history by effecting two main accomplishments that he hoped would distinguish him from de Gaulle: establishing a stronger working relationship with the United States and forging an unbreakable bond with Germany as the axis of a more unified Europe.

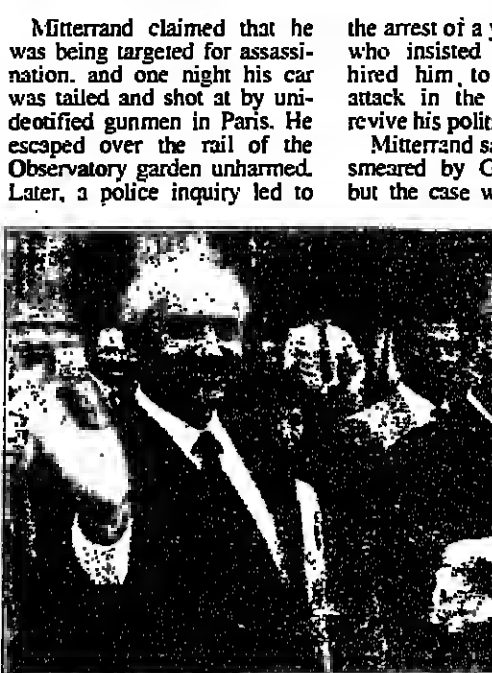
On these matters, too, his actions could appear contradictory. He often criticized American leadership of the Western alliance as too surly and arrogant, yet invariably backed Washington in times of crisis.

His 1983 speech at the German Bundestag advocating the deployment of Pershing II and cruise nuclear missiles in Germany outraged his Socialist colleagues and provided welcome support for the conservative governments of Kohl and President Ronald Reagan. He also backed the Gulf War and sent French troops to fight alongside the Americans.

In 1989, when the Berlin Wall started to tumble, Mitterrand flew to East Berlin and later Kiev, dismissing the notion of German unification and declaring that Europe's balance of power must be sustained. But he artfully managed to prevent his mistaken judgment from impairing his long-standing partnership with Kohl.

Apart from pragmatism, Mitterrand's two terms as president also witnessed startling displays of venality. After vowing that the left would usher in a new era of political morality, the Socialist governments became enmeshed in a succession of corruption scandals that disenchanted voters and forced Mitterrand to share power twice during his tenure—from 1986 to 1988 and from 1993 to 1995—with the conservative opposition.

Mitterrand's personal tastes as president could verge on the monarchic. His obsession with royal prerogatives, critics say, impelled him to launch multi-billion-dollar building projects, such as the Arch at La Defense, the Louvre pyramid and the National Library, that would serve as monuments to his presidency. ■



With Gorbachev

Kozyrev abandons Yeltsin's ship

By Lee Hockstader
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

MOSCOW—Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, whose friendly overtures to the West earned him the hatred of Communists and nationalists at home, resigned Friday and joined the swelling ranks of liberals forced from President Boris Yeltsin's government.

He will now take up the seat in the Russian parliament that he won last month, representing the Arctic Circle city of Murmansk. Kozyrev's resignation, which had been widely expected since Yeltsin all but promised to fire him last fall, probably does not signal any major shift in Russian foreign policy. It does, however, rid Yeltsin of a political liability as the presidential election scheduled for June approaches.

There was no statement Friday from Kozyrev, who is vacationing near Moscow. Nor did the Kremlin comment on a replacement.

What was most remarkable was that Kozyrev managed to last this long. Many foreign policy analysts had confidently predicted his imminent demise starting in mid-1992.

As foreign minister since 1990 and the long-serving member of Yeltsin's Cabinet, Kozyrev, 44, had been vilified by conservatives and liberals alike. He began by declaring "anti-Americanism" a "religion of the past" and delighting diplomats in Washington and Europe with his fluent English, courtly manners and pro-Western outlook.

In Washington, White House press secretary Mike McCurry said, "There are no indications that they have changed their views on domestic matters or foreign affairs," adding that "we have worked closely with (Kozyrev) in a spirit of partnership."

Kozyrev was born in Brussels, the son of a Soviet diplomat, and became a diplomat himself at 23—seemingly almost bred to be a foreign minister.

But to the old guard, who will dominate the new parliament that convenes next week, Kozyrev was an upstart who sold Russia out to the West by cozying up to Washington in the name of partnership and "new thinking" in the early Yeltsin era.

Stung by the criticism and mindful of the political currents, Kozyrev became more assertive of traditional Russian interests, especially after the strong showing of ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in 1993 parliamentary elections.

But the shift earned Kozyrev no friends. Liberals looked on him as a spineless traitor, especially after he backed the bloody war in Chechnya last winter. Communists and nationalists never stopped blaming him for what they saw as the humiliation of Russia's



diminished status.

In recent months, his only real ally was Yeltsin. And with presidential elections in view, Kozyrev had become too great a political problem for Yeltsin.

"He has passed the point when he has given up part of his identity," said Andrei Zagorski, a leading foreign policy analyst here. "He was having to pursue a foreign policy course that he was not designing or even supporting very much."

His resignation Friday was made public just hours before the deadline for newly elected lawmakers to declare their intentions either to take their seats or give them up for a government post. While his status in parliament will not be as great as it has been, at least Kozyrev will have gained some job security.

In recent months his position as foreign minister had been badly undercut not only by Yeltsin's expressions of no confidence but also by competitors in the Kremlin and Defense Ministry.

Yeltsin and his aides said foreign policy would be their own domain. Defense Minister Pavel Grachev represented Russia's interests at NATO, where he negotiated Russia's participation in the Bosnia peacekeeping mission, as well as on a trip to Israel, without consulting Kozyrev or even reporting to him.

The Balkan conflict was a particular problem for the beleaguered foreign minister.

Nationalists in Russia were infuriated when NATO warplanes attacked Serb positions in Bosnia last year, and even more incensed that Moscow lacked the ability to do anything about it. With each fresh attack, they blamed Kozyrev.

Ultimately, Yeltsin was also put on the defensive, and he too made Kozyrev a scapegoat.

Gradually, Russian foreign policy turned more nationalist and more strident. Kozyrev harshly denounced NATO's plans to expand its membership to include some of Moscow's former Warsaw Pact allies in Eastern Europe. And he warned that Russia was prepared to use force to protect the rights of ethnic Russians living in former Soviet republics.

The names of possible replacements for Kozyrev have been rumored for months. They include Dmitri Ryurikov, a Kremlin foreign policy aide who is close to Yeltsin; Anatoly Adamishin, a veteran diplomat who currently is ambassador in London; Vladimir Lukin, a prominent lawmaker who was ambassador in Washington until 1993; and Yuli Vorontsov, who is now ambassador in Washington. ■

End seems near for Conservatives' long run

Analysis:
By William D. Montalbano
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

LONDON—US President Carter was contemplating a second term when Britain's Conservatives swept to office behind Margaret Thatcher in 1979. Now, almost 17 years and three presidents later, the end seems near for the Tories' remarkable run.

A victim of time, Prime Minister John Major is a conspicuous lame duck. He could be forced into early general elections this year—with every prospect of losing.

Major succeeded Thatcher in 1990 and won an election of his own two years later. But sagging popularity and feuding among divided and disillusioned Conservatives have cut to the bone both Major's parliamentary majority and his longevity prospects.

As a result, policies as fundamental to the national future as Britain's role in Europe and the fate of the delicate Northern Irish peace process are now hostage to Major's lukewarm friends—and his hungry-eyed enemies.

Emma Nicholson, a 54-year-old pro-Europe moderate, personifies the mood of rebellion and the interneering anger it is stirring among the beleaguered Tories.

When Nicholson entered politics 21 years ago, her party choice was plain: Her father had been a Conservative member of Parliament for 30 years. Representing Devon in western England, Nicholson rose steadily, at one point serving as a deputy leader of a party that held a 151-seat majority in the 651-member House of Commons during Thatcher's heyday.

But last week, as the year turned, so did Nicholson: She spectacularly defected from the conservatives, denouncing the party's waffling on Europe and its increasingly hard-line social agenda.

Major's government, Nicholson said, "seems paralyzed by indecision, waiting for an election which cannot long be delayed and relying increasingly on the worst, hard-faced popular instincts of people who would have been no more than a small and disregarded right-wing pressure group in the Tory party if I joined."

Switching allegiance, Nicholson joined the centrist Liberal Democrats, the third party in the Commons.

Sign of the distressed Tory times: Nicholson's desertion triggered truckloads of scorn and personal abuse, much of it laden with sexism, from her former colleagues.

"The barrage has been extraordinary and disproportionate," laments analyst Polly Toynbee.

Nicholson's switch was the second humiliating defection in three months for Major's party. In October, rebel Alan Howarth made history, becoming the first Tory member of



Parliament to bolt to the opposition Labor Party.

This week, rumors around Westminster told of possible new defections, as many as half a dozen by some guesses. Major scoffed at the reports. He vows there will be no election before the term he won in 1992 expires naturally in spring 1997.

The numbers do not favor him, though. On the one hand, Major trails Labor's squeaky-clean, new-face Tony Blair by as much as 30 percent in the polls, a powerful reason for wanting an election later rather than sooner. On the other hand, both on political and actuarial grounds Major must reckon to lose his parliamentary control sooner rather than later.

The Tory majority, a comfortable 21 when Major won three years ago, is now between one and five, depending who counts which small-party legislators where. Even if defections don't shift the balance, death likely will in coming months.

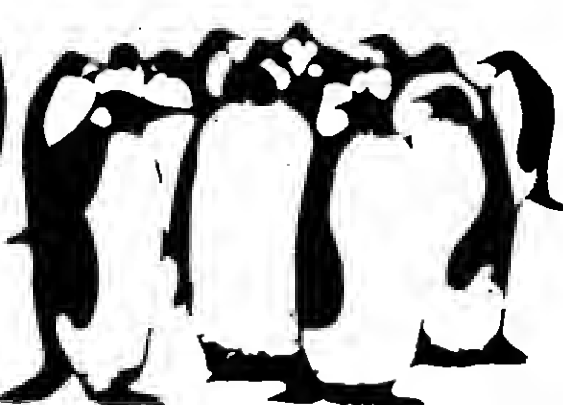
Major could soldier on with a minority government, analysts say, but at what cost? Even now, he can no longer be sure of victory on votes to link Britain nearer to its European Union partners. The closer Europe draws toward a common currency, the more wary of Europe are right-wing Tories whom Major must please.

Amid inevitable Labor maneuvering to force a fatal vote of confidence the Conservatives' most logical allies are the nine legislators of the Ulster Unionists.

But they represent Protestants in Northern Ireland. And, as a first priority, they implicitly oppose peace talks that include representatives of the terrorist Irish Republican Army.

Major's ministers vow not to play political favorites in Ulster. Analysts wonder, though, if the thirst for parliamentary support will undercut face-saving attempts to soften Major's demand for the pre-talks surrender of IRA weapons; that is the sticking point in a peace quest now dangerously stalled. ■

AROUND TOWN



Amman magazine features culture, arts

● THE LATEST issue (no.19) of the Arabic-language monthly cultural magazine "Amman" is now available, featuring a variety of culture and art topics. The issue includes articles, features and literary texts presented artistically. Since it was first established, each issue of the magazine has focused on one of the scenic sites of Jordan looking at them with an artistic eye. In the current issue, Ghazi Al Thibah writes about Jabal Al Lweibdeh, presenting the history and archaeology of this ancient part of Amman. It also includes an article on the work of Jordanian painter Rafiq Al Lahham, an interview with the Lebanese poet Suleiman Al Esa, a feature on the city of Riyadh, and a study on the mythology of Jordan valley. There are also critical essays and reviews of the theatre and the literary scene. The monthly magazine focuses on the latest cultural activities in Jordan and newly released books.



Ousama, starring Nadim Sawalha An Islamic view of the Crusades

By Harry Pullens
Special To The Star

AT THE Nabil and Hisham theater, the realities of the horrendous European crusades in this region come to life in the outstanding mono-dramatic performance by veteran Nadim Sawalha in a historical play entitled Ousama.

During the play, the audience is not only taken back through centuries, but is thrilled and shocked by certain revelations of the period.

The play Ousama is based on the memoirs of Ousama Ibn Munqidh, a 12th century Muslim nobleman, poet, warrior and diplomat who was born in 1095, four years before the conquest of Jerusalem by the Crusaders.

His memoirs, which are a strong testament to his vitality and spirit, offer a vivid account of his heroism, the bloody battles he fought, and the physical injuries he sustained in those crusading battles. But yet, amazingly he writes of his enemies with amusement rather than hatred, despite the military threat they posed. Ousama's descriptions of the bizarre Crusader behavior during the crusades reflect, ironically enough, contemporary situations of confrontation between nations across what appears to be an impassable divide.

The revelations, though often bitter, brutal and gruesome, are revived humorously by first-rate actor Nadim Sawalha. He clearly depicts the extent of the European aggression and fanaticism that inflicted upon Ousama's people immense suffering, as well as the cultural conflicts and racial suspicions of those times.

The legendary figure Salah Al Din is brought to life in the play. He befriended Ousama, and installed him in a palace in Damascus where Ousama became a great literary figure. The crusades remain one of



the most brutal and mysterious phenomena in human history. The passions that drove tens of thousands of Europeans from their homeland on horseback and foot are still being researched today in history books. Modern day historians have argued that the main reasons were neither fervor nor piety, but greed and ambition.

As a result of the Crusaders' ideals, besmirched by cruelty and looting, that period in Middle Ages is referred to as the time when thousands of European noblemen, vagabonds, peasants, clergymen and lech-

ers stitched the red cross upon their mantles and set off to drive the Saracens from Jerusalem in the name of Jesus Christ.

Nadim who talked extensively with European historians about the crusades, believes that the crusaders had selfish motives.

He told The Star he chose the play because it reflects with his beliefs and it is somehow symbolic of himself "though Ousama and myself still have a problem in understanding each other," he said. "I also wanted to give the Is-

lamic point of view a hearing through the memoirs of Ousama, as it is hardly ever presented, for we have seen so much from the Christian point of view about the Crusades."

Ousama, directed by Corin Redgrave, was written by 26 year-old Sara Salih, whose father is a well-known writer. The play is designed for an international audience and aimed at the West, said Nadim, "but it's pleasant to see that the Amman audience has more appreciation for it."

Nadim is part of a big theatrical family. His brother, Nabil Sawalha is one of the creators of the Jordan's theater of political satire. Nadim's daughters Julia and Nadia are actresses. Julia was awarded the best TV artist in 1993.

After studying drama in England, he worked as an actor, radio producer and scriptwriter for the BBC Overseas Service, and also extensively in theater, television and cinema.

Nadim has participated in many movies including The Wind and the Lion, Sinbad and the Eye of the Tiger, and two Bond films. ■

Joined concert led by world-renown conductor

ON SUNDAY, 14 January and under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein, the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation will launch the first of its 1996 series of versatile music activities with a concert featuring the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory and the Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces under the baton of internationally renowned American visiting conductor Dr Charles Auschbacher.

The concert will be held at the Royal Ballroom of the Philadelphia Hotel in cooperation with the American Center.

Most recently, Auschbacher conducted the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra to Sarajevo New Year's Eve Concert which was aired live

on Channel 2 of Jordan Television as well as 50 other television networks.

The program of the concert will feature L'Arlesienne by Bizet, Hungarian Dances by Brahms, Die Fledermaus and Radetzky March by J. Strauss, Piano Concerto No. 24 by Mozart, West Side Story by Bernstein and Stars and Stripes by Sousa.

Both the Orchestra of the National Music Conservatory and the Orchestra of the Jordanian Armed Forces have made numerous public performances under the baton of their resident conductors as well as conductors from abroad. This concert is the third of its kind to combine the two orchestras. ■

Horizon Kuwait & Azzad Forging a strong partnership

HORIZON
The Advertising & Communication Network

HORIZON ADVERTISING begins to celebrate early as it approaches its 20th anniversary. A new partnership with the Kuwait owned and based Azzad company gives Horizon Kuwait a forceful push into the new year. Since the beginning of 1996, Horizon and Azzad look forward to a new market place in Kuwait.

Azzad is a Kuwaiti Catering and Services Company represented by the board of directors: Al Shaya, Al Nafes, Al Besharah, Bukhatmeen, Al Salem, and Marafie, better known as their 1979 "Kuwait Hotel Owners Association". Today this company covers a wide range of objectives including the trade, import, export of all kinds of food and commodity items, catering for hotels, restaurants and industrial catering, laundry services, establishing supermarkets and food stores.

Commenting on the new partnership, Horizon Chairman and CEO, Rafic Saadeh said, "Kuwait is where Saad Hajawi and I started our agency, Horizon. The future looks good and we're ready to give it all we can."

Saad Hajawi who has been MD of Horizon Jordan since 1990, will return to Kuwait as Managing Director. "Kuwait is a market I have serviced for almost twenty years. I'm looking forward to the challenge of the next twenty years."

Horizon hosted a special reception celebrating the new partnership at the elegant Le Meridien Hotel in Kuwait City. Speaking at the reception Hajawi said, "We're proud to announce our new partnership of Horizon/Azzad. The unity of professional regional network and one of the most prominent business groups in Kuwait. Today we face the global challenge of the 21st century, the challenge to meet change at a faster pace than ever before. We're ready to face the future through the strength that lies in our unity." Attending the reception were key figures from Azzad, clients, members of the media, industry suppliers, and Horizon colleagues and friends. ■

New UNICEF Regional Director appointed

ON WEDNESDAY, January 3, Mr. Farid Rahman assumed his duties as Regional Director of the Amman-based UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO), succeeding Mrs. Sarojini Vittal who retired on November 30, 1995.

Prior to his appointment to this post Mr. Rahman served as UNICEF Representative in Beijing, China since 1992. Before that he was UNICEF Representative in Sudan (1989-1992), and Deputy Regional Director of MENARO in Amman (15.1.1989).

Mr. Rahman began his career with UNICEF in Jakarta in November 1976, and since then has assumed a number of senior advisory posts in the organization.

Prior to joining UNICEF, he held a number of senior positions with the government of Pakistan from 1964 to 1974. Mr. Rahman is a national of Pakistan. He studied Law at the University of Peshawar, and Development Economics at the London School of Economics & Political Sciences. He also holds a Master's Degree in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA. ■

unicef

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TURINO - A PASSION FOR FUN!

TURINO-TURINO Restaurant has established itself within the city as the place to be seen. You'll find an informal welcome any time of the day, from early lunch through dinner. With its sleek arty decoo TURINO-TURINO Restaurant promises you a wonderful winter with the world of entertainment. And, before you leave, ask Seif and Wafel to sing you the latest from the Carnes Festival, or Ragheb Alama, or Wa'el Kfour, or your favourite Iraqi song: "Rababa".

At TURINO-TURINO Restaurant, you can savour the familiar taste of western-cuisine in a friendly and delightful environment. Their Master Chef puts twenty years of culinary experience in preparing a rich variety of dishes.

They have coined a new phrase at TURINO: **CHEERS TO GENERATION.**

"A new Sumptuous Gulf Sandwich was also lately introduced at The Cheers Elite Cafe for only JD 2.55. **TURINO'S GREAT!**

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Omar Sharif returns home

INTERNATIONAL MOVIE star Omar Sharif said that he plans to take up permanent residency in Cairo in the near future.

Sharif, who is presently staying at the Sheraton Cairo hotel said, "I am tired of living the life of an expatriate and only staying in Egypt as a visitor, soon I will move into my Cairo apartment to settle down."

Sharif had chosen Paris as his place of residence prior to returning to Cairo. He explained this choice by saying that it was the only place where he rents and does not own a home.

"Initially I tried to live in the United States, but after a few years I felt that I did not like that country. I like to lead a quiet and slow life, which is possible in Paris which is also ideally located in the center of Europe," Sharif said.

Sharif is happy about his decision to move to Cairo and says, "Most of my real friends are Egyptian with friendships that lasted for over forty years and I am very happy about returning to Egypt because there I find the genuine warmth I missed in my European relationships."

Asked about his movie career, Sharif said that he did not receive any serious offers yet that would compel him to work in Egypt. He added that all that has been published in the Egyptian media about him planning to shoot a film is not true and he did not



plans to Egypt he said. "I am looking at an offer by Mamdouh Eltahy, director of television production, to star in a series for the first time." He said that he might agree to star in the show once he has completed reading the part and felt a true interaction with it.

The series revolves around a psychiatrist whose wife leaves him to marry an upcoming businessman. Sharif would star alongside famous Egyptian actors.

The Egyptian media reported that Sharif plans to invest some of his funds in a tourism project on the Red Sea.

Sharif starred in a number of Egyptian movies as well as his roles in famous international movies such as Lawrence of Arabia and Doctor Zhivago. ■

know from where the media received that idea. In regards to his future

THE HOLLYWOOD REPORT

Will 1996 be as dramatic a show as 1995?

LOS ANGELES (Star) - 1995 saw more than \$49 billion in deals and some of the biggest executive shifts ever in Hollywood. Who would have predicted that Ted Turner would agree to sell CNN to Warner? or that Michael Ovitz would leave Creative Artists Agency to take a job as second in command at Walt Disney?

Based on conversations with dozens of people in the entertainment business, here are some predictions for what 1996 might hold:

Walt Disney Company will buy the CBS television network.

Sengram liquor company to absorb MCA, which owns Universal Studios in Los Angeles.

NBC television network and Micro-

work. That could spell trouble for CNN, which has enjoyed a virtual lock on 24 hour news for the past 10 years.

Expect MCA or Disney to make a deal to buy EMI Music, which releases music by Janet Jackson and the Beatles.

Top 10 Films of 1995

1. Batman Forever	Warner Bros	\$134 millions
2. Apollo 13	Universal	\$172 millions
3. Pocahontas	Disney	\$142 millions
4. Toy Story	Disney	\$131 millions
5. Ace Ventura	Warner Bros	\$104 millions
6. Casper	Universal	\$100 millions
7. Die Hard	Fox	\$100 millions
8. Crimson Tide	Disney	\$92 millions
9. Goldeneye	MGM/UA	\$89 millions
10. WaterWorld	Universal	\$138 millions

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



At the Porcupine Ball



Whale breath-holding contests



"No way, I'll put my magazine down when you put yours down."



How locusts are incited to swarm

AGENDA

Films

5:30 pm.

■ Inherit The Wind, at The American Center today Thursday, 11 January at 5 pm.

■ Police cinema night at the French Cultural Center featuring two movies: "The Bane" and "Hell" on Monday, January 15

■ In Search of Pure Colour, at Darat al Funn today Thursday, 11 January at

Exhibitions

■ Water colour paintings and photographs by a German artist group at the Goethe Institute from Saturday 13 Jan until Sunday 21 Jan (except Friday) 9 am-6 pm.

■ "The autobiography of an eye", photography exhibition at Darat al Funn by the poet Ibrahim Nasrallah until 15 Jan.

The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on JTV from 13-19 Jan.



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ENGLISH PROGRAM

SATURDAY

- 7:00—Moomins
- 7:30—Wish Kid
- 8:00—Harry And The Hendersons
- 8:25—Blue Heelers
- 8:40—Voyagers
- 9:00—French Programs
- 9:30—News Headlines
- 9:35—Major Dad
- 9:40—The Stamp of Greatness
- 9:55—The Bold and the Beautiful
- 10:10—The Glass Virgin
- 10:30—News at Ten
- 10:35—Feature Film: *Hearts On Fire*, starring: Roy Barkey & Robyn Lively
- 11:50—Behaving Badly

SUNDAY

- 7:00—The Flintstones
- 7:30—Droopy Master Detective
- 8:00—Family Playhouse
- 8:30—Mac And Muttley
- 8:50—Pugwall's Summer
- 9:00—Voyagers
- 9:30—French Programs
- 9:35—News Headlines
- 9:40—Are You Being Served?
- 9:55—Cinema, Cinema, Cinema
- 10:10—The Bold and the Beautiful
- 10:30—Womoe of the World
- 10:35—Heart Beat
- 10:40—News at Ten
- 10:45—Counterstrike
- 11:15—The American Chart Show
- 12:00—Stay Lucky

MONDAY

- 7:00—Shelly Duvall's Bedtime Stories
- 7:30—Richie Rich
- 8:00—Playabout
- 8:15—Bustin Loose
- 8:40—Animals of the Medi-

PROGRAMMES EN FRANÇAIS

SAMEDI

- 5:00—Dessin animé Ordy
- 5:15—Jeunesse Les Badabocks
- 5:30—Série Jeunesse Les compagnons de l'aventure
- 5:45—Série Jeunesse Les six compagnons dans la ville rose
- 6:00—Magazine médical Savoir plus santé
- 6:15—Série Jeunesse Les accidents de la route
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Faut pas rêver

DIMANCHE

- 5:00—Dessin animé Ordy
- 5:15—Jeunesse Les Badabocks
- 5:30—Série Jeunesse Les compagnons de l'aventure
- 5:45—Série Jeunesse Les six compagnons dans la ville rose
- 6:00—Magazine médical Savoir plus santé
- 6:15—Série Jeunesse Les accidents de la route
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Sports et musique

JEUDI

- 5:00—Dessin animé Ordy
- 5:15—Jeunesse Les Badabocks
- 5:30—Série Jeunesse Les compagnons de l'aventure
- 5:45—Série Jeunesse Les six compagnons dans la ville rose
- 6:00—Magazine médical Savoir plus santé
- 6:15—Série Jeunesse Les accidents de la route
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Sports et musique

VENREDI

- 5:00—Dessin animé Ordy
- 5:15—Jeunesse Les Badabocks
- 5:30—Série Jeunesse Les compagnons de l'aventure
- 5:45—Série Jeunesse Les six compagnons dans la ville rose
- 6:00—Magazine médical Savoir plus santé
- 6:15—Série Jeunesse Les accidents de la route
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Sports et musique

MARDI

- 5:00—Dessin animé Ordy
- 5:15—Jeunesse Les Badabocks
- 5:30—Série Jeunesse Les compagnons de l'aventure
- 5:45—Série Jeunesse Les six compagnons dans la ville rose
- 6:00—Magazine médical Savoir plus santé
- 6:15—Série Jeunesse Les accidents de la route
- 7:00—Le journal
- 7:15—Sports et musique



Goldrush in Alaska, Friday at 3:05

THURSDAY

- 1:00—Horricanes
- 1:15—Fireman Sam
- 1:45—My Secret Identity
- 2:02—NBA
- 3:05—The new Leave it to Beaver
- 3:30—Adventures Of The Old West
- 4:30—Gillette World Sport
- 5:00—French Programs
- 5:30—News Headlines
- 7:30—Carol And Company
- 8:00—Magazine 01
- 8:15—The Album Show
- 9:10—Miami Vice
- 10:00—News At Ten
- 10:25—Texas Justice
- 12:00—Madlock

FRIDAY

- 1:00—The Little Mermaid

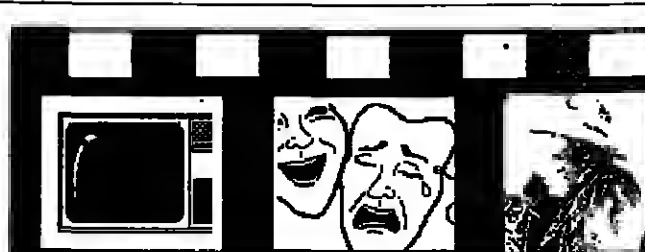
THURSDAY

- 1:30—Beethoven: Cartoon
- 1:40—Bush School
- 1:50—Lil' Ott
- 2:15—Super Carrier
- 3:05—Goldrush in Alaska
- 4:05—Wonder Why
- 4:30—Give Us a Cue
- 5:00—French Programs
- 5:30—News Headlines
- 7:30—Short Story Cloema
- 8:00—Natural Wonders of Europe
- 8:45—America's Funniest People
- 9:15—Widows
- 10:00—News at Ten
- 10:25—Second Chances
- 11:30—Feature Film: *Cherade*, starring: Cary Grant & Audrey Hepburn

MARDI

- 1:00—The Little Mermaid

Programs are subject to change by JTV



Cinema

"CLUELESS" (Paramount, 13): Amy Heckerling, the director who defined 1980s youth with *"Fast Times at Ridgemont High,"* does much the same for their 1990 counterparts with this entertaining comedy. Alicia Silverstone became a true star by playing the seemingly savvy young lady who dispenses counsel to her female friends on what's "in" and not; co-stars include Stacey Dash and Breckin Meyer. *** (PG-13: AS, P)

"BELLE DE JOUR" (Miramax, 13): Long out of circulation until its theatrical re-release earlier this year, director Luis Bunuel's controversial 1967 classic — presented in its original French language, with English subtitles — stars Catherine Deneuve as a housewife leading a double life. Though her husband is dedicated to her, she seeks satisfaction by prostituting herself, unbeknownst to him. *** (R: AS, P, V)

HELD OVER: "SPECIES" (MGM/UA, 13): Director Roger Donaldson's thriller casts model Natasha Henstridge as the result of a scientific experiment who spells doom for those who cross her path, especially when she morphs into a monster (designed by *"Alien's"* H.R. Giger). Ben Kingsley, Michael Madsen, Forest Whitaker, Alfred Molina and Marg Helgenberger play the team trying to stop her lethal rampage. *** (R: AS, N, P, GV)

"THE SECRET OF ROAN INISH" (Columbia/TriStar, 13): Subtitled *"Island of the Seals,"* director John Sayles' atmospheric, decidedly mystical fable — which he adapted from the novel *"Secret of the Ron Mor Skerry"* by Rosalie K. Fry — focuses on a youngster who searches for her missing brother and, in the process, gives life to an ancient Irish legend. The cast includes Nick Lally and Jeni Courtney. *** (PG: P)

"FROM THE MIXED-UP FILES OF MRS. BASIL E. FRANKWEILER" (Hallmark, 13): Veteran actress Lauren Bacall made a rare television appearance in this made-for-ABC adaptation of E.L. Konigsburg's popular, award-winning children's book. Two youngsters (played by Jean Marie Barnwell and Jesse Lee) run away and secretly set up residence in an art museum, of which Bacall's character is a patron. *** (PG: P)

COMING SOON: "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" (HBO/Savoy, Dec. 26): Tim Daly (*"Wings"*) and Sean Young play the before-and-after incarnations of the same character in this spoof! (PG-13)

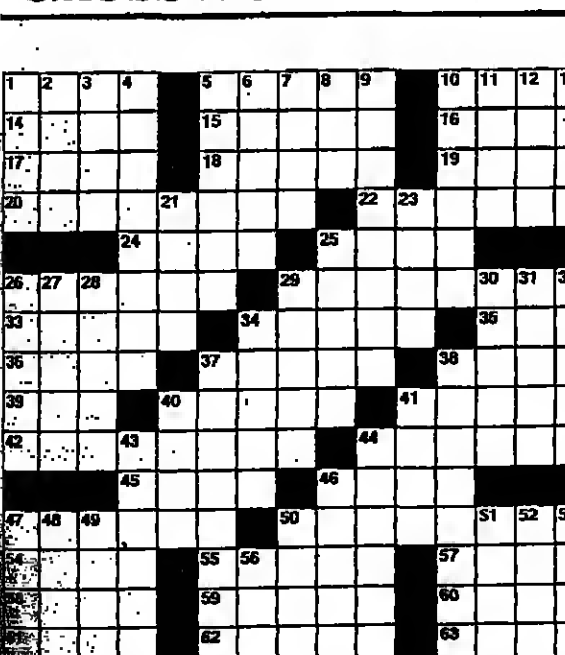
"Moral Kombat" (New Line, Dec. 26): The video games comes to life in this special-effect-packed adventure, featuring Christopher Lambert as the heroes' mentor. (PG-13)

"Showgirls" (MGM/UA, Dec. 26): Director Paul Verhoeven and writer Joe Eszterhas' controversial drama focusing on an aspiring Las Vegas dancer (Elizabeth Berkley). (NC-17)

FAMILY-VIEWING GUIDE KEY: AS, adult situations; N, nudity; P, profanity; V, violence; GV, particularly graphic violence.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



- | | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| ACROSS | 38 Food for thought | DOWN | 1 Type of jockey | 29 Stringed instrument |
| 1 Computer | 39 United | 2 Neighborhood | 30 Pursue | |
| 2 Charles and | 40 Farinaceous | 3 Male turkeys | 31 Appellation | |
| 3 Bays | 41 Show pleasure | 4 Liqueur | 32 Goose genus | |
| 4 Duck milieu | 42 Naughtily | 5 Sweet drink | 33 Dish | |
| 5 Press | 43 Kitchen gadget | 6 Neglects | 34 Dish | |
| 6 Hail it up | 44 Real | 7 Went by car | 35 Dish | |
| 7 Adams | 45 Season | 8 Feasted | 36 Dish | |
| 8 Truck's rig | 46 Syria's neighbor | 9 Small game | 37 Dish | |
| 9 Apple drink | 47 Brad | 10 Repute | 38 Dish | |
| 10 Pitch | 48 Gardner's game | 11 Baseball number | 39 Dish | |
| 11 Carriage | 49 Brad | 12 Cupid | 40 Dish | |
| 12 Valued | 50 Gardner's game | 13 Williams or Warhol | 41 Dish | |
| 13 Memorable times | 51 Gardner's game | 14 Feat | 42 Dish | |
| 14 Dispatched | 52 Gardner's game | 15 At home | 43 Dish | |
| 15 Newspaper | 53 Gardner's game | 16 Arduous trip | 44 Dish | |
| 16 VIP | 54 Gardner's game | 17 Rigg, the actress | 45 Dish | |
| 17 Bird feud | 55 Gardner's game | 18 Circle or tube | 46 Dish | |
| 18 Servings of | 56 Gardner's game | | | |
| 19 Pie | 57 Gardner's game | | | |
| 20 Devoutness | 58 Gardner's game | | | |
| 21 Tin Tin (movie dog) | 59 Gardner's game | | | |
| 22 Rational | 60 Gardner's game | | | |
| 23 Trudges | 61 Gardner's game | | | |

— THIS WEEK'S — HOROSCOPE

By Linda Black

Weekly Tip: An old-fashioned celebration will be in style. Gather with best friends.

Aries (March 21-April 19). Make your last-minute purchases. You'll be even more decisive than usual. An older person deserves your attention, and your respect.

Taurus (April 20-May 20). Get rid of something you don't need anymore. For example, dump a friend you can't trust.

Gemini (May 21-June 21). Concentrate and get a big job done. An attractive partner may demand your attention. A conversation with another scholar could lead to love.

Cancer (June 22-July 22). A passionate nature may lurk under an older person's dignified facade. Share your burdens with a friend.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22). Let a friend call the shots to save yourself some trouble. Don't totally ignore your obligations, or they'll smack you right in the face.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your house may be full of revelers. You won't get anything serious done, so give up!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). You may find a way to bring more money into your account. You'll have lots of things to spend it on, soon!

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You're even more decisive than usual, so wrap up a big project. A gamble might pay off for you. Get an older person to teach you a valuable skill.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Finish up little odds and ends. You'll be absolutely brilliant. You could come into some money. Don't spend it all in one place!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Your friends can help you get what you want. Nobody else can do it for you, though. Those are tasks you'll have to complete by yourself.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Don't argue with a stubborn older person. It's not worth the effort. You have obligations to fulfill.

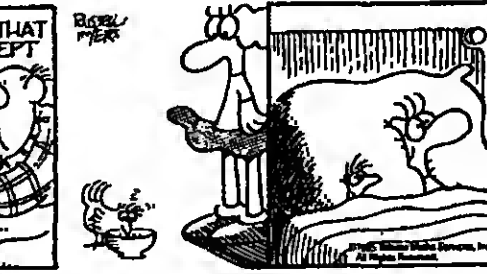
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20). You're lucky, especially if you're traveling with a passionate companion. An older person may want you to do something, but you're not sure what. The confusion isn't all your fault!

If You're Having a Birthday This Week: This year the assignment is to complete a project you've had hanging around for way too long. You're hot! Make three wishes and you'll get at least two!

PERKY & BEANZ by Russell Myers



ELWOOD by Ben Templeton & Tom Forman



CATFISH by Fred Wagner & Tom Cone



WORDS OF WISDOM



Words of Wisdom

Those who never change their opinions are more taken with themselves than with the truth.

It is better to have a strong desire than to have a strong wish. The latter only want to be; the former will.

A few words can wreak great harm or do great good, depending on the choice.

A rule of thumb is not to be devoted entirely to any one thing.

The character of the actor is decided by motive.

If you cannot feel pain, you cannot feel joy.

Expectation is the greatest of all pleasures.

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Bridge

Choose the Right Strain

By Tannah Hirsch

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ J 6

♥ A 8 7 2

♦ A 7 2

♣ A 7 5 4

EAST

♠ 8 2

♥ J 10 5 4 3

♦ K 8 5

♣ 10 9 2

SOUTH

♠ A K 10 9 5

♥ K 9

♦ Q J 6 4 3

♣ 8

The bidding:

South West North East

1♠ Pass 2NT Pass

3♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

4♠ Pass 4♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

When both partners have balanced hands, no trump is a logical contract to play. If one hand is highly distributional, a suit contract is often a better spot even if an eight-card major-suit fit does not exist.

Note North's preference to three spades with a doubleton. Having already shown a balanced hand, which probably lacked three-card support for South's major, there was no reason to rebid no trump, especially since aces are normally of more use in a suit contract. So North made the waiting bid of three spades, to see what would ensue. South's raise to game ended the auction. After a club lead, possible from East's holding, three no trump might well fail, but four spades required no more than normal breaks in spades and diamonds.

West led the king of clubs, taken in dummy with the ace, and the jack of spades was played in an effort to tempt East to cover. When East followed low, however, declarer spurned the finesse in favor of cashing the ace and king, in an effort to drop her majesty. When the queen did not appear, declarer abandoned trumps in favor of setting up the diamond suit.

A diamond to the ace and a diamond back fetched the king from East, and declarer was in control. The diamond suit was established and, even if East gave West a ruff, the best the defenders could do was to take two trumps and a diamond. East tried valiantly by forcing declarer to ruff a club. Another trump lead now by South would have been fatal, but South simply started running red-suit winners, allowing West to score both trumps at leisure, but no more.

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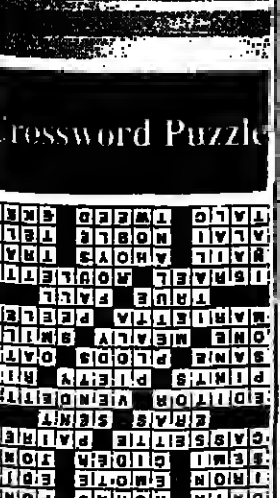
WORD WISE

Q: Is there a word for animal rights activists, the people who protest animal experiments and using animals for fur coats?

A: Biophilism, meaning bio for life and phil for love, is the belief that animals have rights human beings should respect. So activists are biophilists. But as my source "More Weird Words," points out, the related word biophilous ironically means parasitic.

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Crossword Puzzle



FEELIN' FIT!

Cleopatra is rumored to have used aged wine, which contains an alpha hydroxy acid, to improve her skin's appearance. If your outside isn't feeling as good as your inside, consult a dermatologist who may be able to recommend and/or prescribe the appropriate alpha hydroxy preparation for you.

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Le Jourdain

Supplément en français du Star

Les Israéliens favorables au retrait du Golan

● Selon un sondage réalisé par le Centre de recherche sur la paix de Tel Aviv, de plus en plus d'Israéliens sont favorables au retrait complet du plateau du Golan (notre photo) en échange de la signature d'un traité de paix avec la Syrie. Alors qu'au mois d'août seulement 33,8% des personnes interrogées se prononçaient pour cette paix négociée, 46,6% y sont favorables aujourd'hui. À l'inverse, 43,4% souhaitent encore qu'Israël conserve ses positions stratégiques sur le Golan, soit une baisse de plus de 10% par rapport au mois d'août. La politique menée dans ce domaine par le nouveau Premier ministre Shimon Pérès semble satisfaire l'opinion publique israélienne puisque 53% des personnes interrogées estiment que le chef du gouvernement doit continuer dans cette voie, 62% pensant que cette politique est en droite ligne avec celle de son prédécesseur Itzhak Rabin. Publié avant la venue du secrétaire d'État américain Warren Christopher qui dirige une nouvelle mission de paix entre Israël et la Syrie, ce sondage devrait encourager les deux parties à essayer de conclure au plus vite les négociations qui ont repris le mois dernier après six mois d'interdiction.



SELON

Si pour certains coquins, le baiser reste le moyen le plus efficace pour faire taire une femme, pour d'autres, il s'agit d'un contact beaucoup plus cérébral que corporel.

À l'origine, c'est de l'animal, qui par tendresse léchait la femelle, que l'homme a appris puis développé le baiser, distinguant plusieurs sortes et lui donnant plusieurs significations. Napoléon, loin d'être un expert dans ce domaine, écrit à Joséphine le lendemain de leur première rencontre: «Sept heures. Je me réveille plein de toi. Ton portrait et le souvenir de l'enivante soirée d'hier n'ont point laissé de repos à mes sens (...). Repois un millier de baisers mais ne m'en donne pas, car ils me brûlent mon sang.»

Les historiens disent qu'Adam et Ève se seraient échangés des baisers sur la bouche mais il semblerait que les Assyriens soient les premiers à l'avoir expérimenté. Les pharaons et les juifs n'étaient pas des «embrasseurs». Les Grecs anciens ont adopté cette nouvelle technique, tout en interdisant le baiser sur la bouche. Celui qui était pris était condamné à mort. Les Perses étaient beaucoup plus souples: ils se contentaient de taper l'homme et d'enfermer la femme dans une cage. Mais le baiser, tel qu'on le connaît aujourd'hui, serait une invention française. Quel hasard! Les Romains l'ont rapidement adopté, mais en réalité, ils s'en servaient au début pour s'assurer que leur femme n'avait pas bu d'alcool. Au Moyen-Âge, les Anglais ont développé l'usage du «baiser français» qui a failli remplacer la poignée de main. Les soldats victorieux étaient accueillis dans les rues par les baisers des jeunes filles.

Peu à peu, cet excès de romantisme à l'anglaise a été freiné. Dès lors, on se limitait en public à un baiser sur la main (il faut bien que l'on commence quelque part, comme disait le valet Sacha Guitry).

Le XIX^{ème} siècle a vu l'importance du baiser sur la bouche diminuer. Raison? La peste et les succès de nouvelles associations luttant contre ce «pêche» qui transmet les microbes (40 000 microbes échangés lors de chaque baiser d'après les spécialistes). Aragon n'est pas d'accord avec cette «propagande» et défend les amoureux en affirmant que le baiser ne transmet pas les germes mais affaiblit simplement la résistance de l'homme.

Jusqu'à nos jours, de nombreuses tribus dans le monde refusent d'introduire le baiser dans leurs mœurs. Certains pays comme la Chine ou le Japon le pratiquent peu. Le baiser moderne est devenu un véritable art, grâce aux travaux français et au cinéma qui en a fait une technique bien illustrée à la portée de tous.

Au fil des années, le baiser a perdu son charme et sa magie, en devenant pour certains un geste machinal et involontaire. Ceci n'empêche pas que la femme se souvient toujours de son premier baiser. Le premier accomplissement d'une vie sentimentale bien remplie, et certainement un moyen beaucoup plus persuasif que les longs discours.

Souhail Akhweiss

Mitterrand passe l'âme à gauche

François Mitterrand est mort lundi à l'âge de 79 ans, huit mois après avoir quitté le pouvoir. De ses débuts controversés à son arrivée à l'Élysée, le récit de cinquante ans de combat politique d'un homme haï ou aimé mais qui n'a jamais su laisser indifférent.

Né en 1916 dans une famille nationaliste et provinciale, François Mitterrand est un jeune homme classique. Chez les Mitterrand, il y a d'abord Dieu. Un catholicisme ardent et charitable, qui va peupler d'églises, de prêtres et de lectures les vingt ans d'une enfance qu'il a beaucoup aimée. Ensuite, l'ordre social. Les Mitterrand sont des petits bourgeois, avec du bien, l'amour du métier et du travail bien fait. En 1925, il est interne à Angoulême, chez les religieux du collège Saint-Paul. D'Angoulême à Paris, il passe sans encombre d'un univers paisible à un autre univers paisible. Il s'installe dans un foyer de pères maristes.

Blessé sans gravité lors de la

C'est dans son village natal de Jarnac, dans le sud-ouest, que François Mitterrand sera inhumé aujourd'hui.



François Mitterrand 1916-1996

1916 François Mitterrand naît le 26 octobre, issu d'une famille bourgeoise, catholique et provinciale. Il étudie le droit et découvre la politique du côté de la droite traditionnelle.

1940 Pendant la Seconde guerre mondiale, François Mitterrand est fait prisonnier. Il s'évade d'Allemagne en 1941 et rejoint le gouvernement collaborateur de Vichy, avant d'exprimer un rôle actif dans la Résistance.

1946 élu député, François Mitterrand devient ministre à trente ans. Il occupera onze portefeuilles jusqu'en 1958.

1958 Le général de Gaulle revient au pouvoir et fonde une nouvelle Répu-

blique. François Mitterrand devient peu à peu le chef de l'opposition.

1965 À l'élection présidentielle, François Mitterrand se présente comme le candidat de gauche et met en évidence le général de Gaulle et son régime.

1971 Au Congrès d'Épinay, François Mitterrand fonde le Parti socialiste et s'allie aux communistes. Il perd l'élection présidentielle de 1974 contre Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

1981 Le 10 mai, François Mitterrand devient le premier président socialiste élu au suffrage universel.

1986 La droite gagne les élections à l'Assemblée nationale et le président Mitterrand nomme son chef, Jacques Chirac.

Premier ministre. C'est la première «cohabitation».

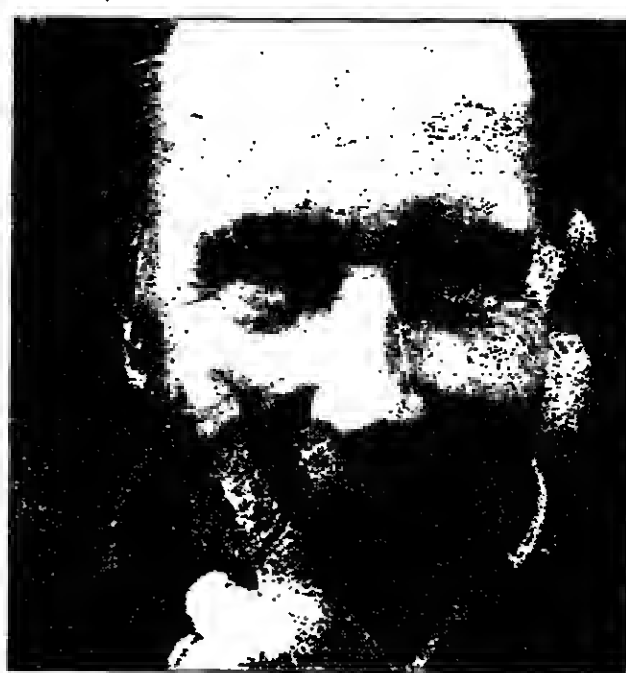
1988 Le 8 mai, François Mitterrand se fait réélire président de la République en battant Jacques Chirac.

1992 Le 20 septembre, le traité européen de Maastricht est adopté par les Français par référendum. François Mitterrand s'engage à signer le traité, mais la gauche aux yeux des Français.

1995 François Mitterrand quitte définitivement le pouvoir le 17 mai, après l'élection à la présidence de Jacques Chirac.

1996 Le 8 janvier, François Mitterrand s'éteint des suites de son cancer.

Décès



Avec deux septennats, François Mitterrand avait battu le record de durée à l'Élysée depuis l'élection de Louis Napoléon Bonaparte en 1848.

L'humanisme qui le portait à placer le respect de la défense des droits de l'homme au cœur de sa politique intérieure et extérieure, cette philosophie qui le faisait réagir en homme de culture aux discours des économistes, rencontrait déjà des murs d'indifférence.

Obligé de cohabiter avec l'opposition en 1986, il nomma Jacques Chirac au poste de Premier ministre. Il ne fallut pas longtemps pour que le peuple de gauche, anesthésié par quatre années de rigueur économique, se réveille.

À l'aube de se représenter en

1988 à la présidence de la République, François Mitterrand avait plusieurs raisons de se retirer de la vie politique: la prudence d'éviter le camouflet d'une défaite; tout d'abord, et son âge, bien sûr.

Sa réélection de 1988 est une victoire personnelle. Il ne portait plus un projet collectif, et n'est plus le chef de son propre parti. Lors de son deuxième septennat, il est plus enclin à gouverner en parlant qu'en pesant sur les choses, souffrant de l'inconstance de l'opinion. Et quand il comprend que la réélection tardive de sa jeunesse pendant la deuxième guerre mondiale risque d'entraîner l'image pieuse qu'il avait offerte à cette France qu'il avait tant aimée, il prisa sa propre main à la démythification. Pour l'ultime plaisir, sans doute, de quitter la scène sur un clin d'œil d'artiste en quête d'ultimes applaudissements.

Un artisan du dialogue israélo-palestinien

Au cours de son double septennat, François Mitterrand devint un fil des ans un avocat de la cause palestinienne et l'un des principaux artisans du dialogue qui se noua entre Israéliens et Palestiniens.

Franchement pro-israélien au début de son septennat, François Mitterrand change d'attitude avec la destruction par l'aviation israélienne du centre nucléaire irakien de Tammouz, que la France avait construit en partie, et l'intervention militaire des Israéliens au Liban au mois de juin 1982.

Premier chef d'État européen à se rendre en Israël, François Mitterrand défend devant la Knesset des 1982 le principe d'un État palestinien et le droit d'Israël à exister dans des frontières sûres et reconnues. «Le dialogue suppose que chaque partie puisse aller jusqu'au bout de son droit, ce qui, pour les Palestiniens comme pour les au-

tres, peut, le moment venu, signifier un État.» Il faudra attendre dix ans et le retour au pouvoir des travaillistes israéliens pour que le dialogue direct que souhaitait l'ancien président de la République s'engage et débouche sur la déclaration de principe de Washington en septembre 1993.

Poussant progressivement Yasser Arafat à adopter une attitude plus modérée, il est le premier chef d'État occidental, membre permanent du Conseil de sécurité de l'ONU, à recevoir l'ami dérangeant, le chef de l'Olp, le 2 mai 1989.

À l'occasion de cette visite parisienne, Yasser Arafat consacra l'adhésion du Conseil national palestinien à toutes les résolutions de l'ONU, y compris celles qui garantissent l'existence d'Israël, et s'engagea à réviser la charte de l'Olp qui prévoit le démantèlement de l'État juif.

L'Égyptien

C'est à Assouan que François Mitterrand a tenu à passer son dernier Noël. En dépit des recommandations de ses médecins qui lui avaient demandé de rester en France pour se reposer, l'ancien président était parti rejoindre ses proches en Haute-Égypte. Il avait rejoint la France le 29 décembre pour passer le Nouvel An dans le sud de la France.

Il résidait dans un vieux hôtel surplombant le Nil et n'avait presque pas quitté sa chambre durant sa semaine de séjour, sauf pour une promenade en bateau sur le fleuve égyptien.

Amoureux de l'Égypte Antique, il avait déclaré en février 1995 lors de son avant-dernier voyage: «Je viens souvent en Égypte car j'aime l'Égypte et les Égyptiens. C'est certainement l'un des plus beaux pays du monde. J'y repais l'accueil le plus amical que l'on puisse imaginer.» Il avait alors ajouté: «C'est certainement un de mes derniers voyages.»

Société

Une entreprise au service de l'emploi

À Amman, les demandeurs d'emploi peuvent désormais s'adresser à Job finder pour trouver du travail.

A Djebel Amman, une grande maison de deux étages abrite Job finder, un bureau dont le but est de mettre en relation les demandeurs d'emploi avec les entreprises. Il se charge aussi de rassembler des informations sur les ressources humaines en Jordanie.

À sa création en juin 1995, Job finder tournait avec seulement deux employés installés dans une petite pièce. Aujourd'hui, c'est un grand bureau qui emploie une vingtaine de personnes s'occupant de gestion et de ressources humaines.

Grâce au curriculum vitae des demandeurs d'emploi, Job finder s'est constituée une base de données lui permettant de répondre dans des délais brefs aux demandes des entreprises à la recherche d'employés aux profils bien précis.

«Chacun d'entre nous connaît les chiffres du chômage en Jordanie», explique le directeur de Job finder, Mohamed Barakat. Il y a 25% de chômeurs, dont un grand nombre de diplômés. Nous avons créé ce bureau pour combattre le chômage et aider les gens à trouver leur place dans la société.

Parmi les 300 ou 400 demandes qui arrivent chaque mois, on trouve aussi bien des ingénieurs que des chauffeurs de taxi. «On arrive à placer trente personnes par mois», explique le directeur de Job finder qui travaille actuellement avec 300 entreprises en Jordanie et à l'étranger.

Comme près de 2500 personnes qui ont déjà envoyé leur CV, Mohamed Barakat s'est adressé à Job finder pour trouver un emploi. «J'ai passé ma candidature après la fin de mes études. Le lendemain, ils m'ont trouvé

un bon travail qui correspond à ma spécialité. Je suis très content car si j'avais cherché toute seule, je n'aurais pas trouvé si facilement.»

Pour utiliser les services de

Job finder, les entreprises doivent payer chaque demande 40 dinars, et les demandeurs d'emploi cinq dinars pour déposer leur CV. Les emplois les plus demandés concernent le secrétariat, les relations publiques, l'informatique et l'ensemble des services.

«Je préfère embaucher par l'intermédiaire de Job finder. L'économie du temps, des efforts et de l'argent», explique Mohamed Barakat, directeur administratif et financier de Arab Medical. J'ai recruté plusieurs employés grâce à eux. Je suis très heureux qu'il y ait un tel service en Jordanie. C'est un signe de notre développement économique.»

La fin du «wasta» «Laissez-nous être votre wasta» dit un slogan de la société. Un de ses objectifs est de changer la politique de recrutement qui dépend souvent du «piston», en le remplaçant par les qualifications et le mérite personnel.

Il essaie également de modifier la mentalité des gens en ce qui concerne certains emplois, comme par exemple le secrétariat. «Une secrétaire, ce n'est pas forcément une femme assise derrière son bureau en train de boire des cafés, ex-

plique Mohamed Barakat. C'est un travail difficile qui demande de grandes compétences et qui doit être apprécié à sa juste valeur. Il y a même depuis peu des secrétaires hommes.»

Composante de l'entreprise jordanienne Business Optimization Consultants qui s'occupe de la formation de personnel et de conseil d'entreprise, la société Job finder encourage les jeunes à accepter un premier emploi, même modeste, pour qu'ils aient un premier contact avec le monde du travail.

Et dans le même temps, elle pousse les employeurs à leur donner un salaire juste. Les responsables de Job finder tiennent d'ailleurs une liste noire d'employeurs peu sérieux qui se sont adressés à eux pour des raisons douteuses. «Les femmes trouvent plus facilement du travail que les hommes. Mais ce n'est pas forcément pour de bonnes raisons», explique Mohamed Barakat. Certains employeurs cherchent à recruter de jolies femmes sans s'intéresser à leurs capacités. Simplement parce que ça leur fait une belle vitrine.»

La meilleure preuve de la réussite de Job finder est peut-être l'histoire de son directeur. «Je me suis adressé à Job finder il y a quatre mois pour qu'il me trouve du travail. Et aujourd'hui, j'en suis le directeur.»

Mona Kaddoumi

«La France est un plus grand pays musulman que la Jordanie»

Dans le cadre d'une tournée au Proche-Orient, Philippe Séguin, président de l'Assemblée nationale française, a fait étape à Amman samedi.

Philippe Séguin est président de l'Assemblée nationale française. Gaulliste et proche du président Chirac, il effectuait la semaine dernière une tournée dans la région. Point d'orgue de son circuit, Philippe Séguin, également maire d'Épinay (est de la France), était dimanche dernier à Jéricho avec d'autres maires français pour une cérémonie de jumelage de villes palestiniennes et françaises.

Quelle est l'objet de votre présence en Jordanie? S'agissant de mon voyage à Amman, il y a d'abord des raisons bilatérales. Il y a le souhait de la France, et tout particulièrement depuis l'élection du président Jacques Chirac, de renforcer ses liens avec les pays du monde arabe en général et ceux du Proche-Orient en particulier. Et à cet égard, compte tenu du passé, compte tenu des relations que nous avons toujours eues avec elle, la relation avec la Jordanie est une relation particulièrement importante à nos yeux. D'autre part, le parlement jordanien est une bonne illustration de l'expérience démocratique vécue par la Jordanie. C'est un parlement actif, un parlement particulièrement intéressant et nous sommes très



Philippe Séguin est venu réaffirmer le message de la France.

désireux, nous, parlement français, d'avoir une coopération suivie avec lui.

Et quant au processus de paix? Il y a une deuxième catégorie de raisons qui font évidemment à l'évolution de la situation générale dans la région qui paraît très prometteuse pour l'avenir, en particulier dans le domaine de la paix, cela va sans dire, mais également sur le plan économique et commercial. Cette zone a d'immenses potentialités. Je parlais de la paix: le problème du développement et des échanges économiques et

celui de la paix ne sont pas des problèmes isolés. La paix sera d'autant plus susceptible de durer, de s'installer que, parallèlement, des relations commerciales, économiques, humaines, culturelles s'établiront entre tous les peuples de la région. Or ces relations, cette organisation économique de la région, sera, me semble-t-il, d'autant plus aisée que la région s'ouvrira vers l'extérieur et en particulier, il me semble que c'est son débouché naturel, vers l'Europe.

Dans quel cadre? L'Union européenne, au cours des trois ou quatre dernières présidences, a fait le choix politique de l'accentuation de sa politique méditerranéenne. Nous partons du principe qu'il est temps de s'organiser, économiquement d'abord, peut-être politiquement un jour, autour de la Méditerranée, entre peuples du nord, peuples du sud dans l'intérêt mutuel bien compris. Alors il n'est pas anormal que la France, compte tenu de sa façade méditerranéenne, de

sa tradition arabe, de sa propre situation intérieure, soit présente. Songez après tout qu'il y a plus de musulmans en France qu'il n'y en a en Jordanie! Cela peut paraître paradoxal mais c'est ainsi, la France est un plus grand pays musulman que ne l'est la Jordanie elle-même! Donc il est normal que la France joue dans ce domaine un rôle moteur et c'est la raison pour laquelle, pour le compte de l'Union européenne, elle prend ces initiatives.

L'élection de Jacques Chirac a soulevé un espoir gaulliste dans la région. Quelle sera la spécificité gaulliste du nouveau message de la France dans la région, si tant est qu'il soit nouveau?

Le message de la France est qu'elle croit à l'unité européenne, à l'unité franco-arabe. Elle croit que l'islam est une grande religion, porteuse de tolérance, totalement compatible et même annonciatrice de progrès économique, scientifique, social, culturel. Et la France, avec cette sensibilité, pense qu'elle a un rôle à jouer et que le rapprochement est tout à fait possible et nécessaire.

Propos recueillis par Benoît Floch

Activities

Royal Cultural Centre	661026/7	Concord Cinema	677420
American Centre Library	820101	Plaza Cinema	669238
British Council	636147/8	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Cervantes Institute (Spanish)	610858		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
Y.W.C.A.	641793		
Dar al Fann	643252		
Alia Art Gallery	639303		
Baladina Art Gallery	657132		
Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	675571		
Nabil & Hisham's Theatre	625155		

Sports Clubs

Al Hussein Sports City	667181/5
Orthodox Club	810491
Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
Royal Chess Club	673713
Royal Racing Club	09-801233
Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Amman Mun. Library	636111
Univ. of Jordan Library	843555
R.S.C.N.	837931/837937



Government Depts.

The Prime Ministry	641211	Labour	698186
Amman Greater Municipality	636111	Municipalities & Environment	641393
Agriculture	686151	Parliamentary Affairs	641211
Awqaf & Islamic Affairs	666141	Planning	644466
Culture / Jabal Amman	636391	Post & Communications	624301
Education & Higher Education	669181	Public Health	665131
Energy & Mineral Resources	815615	Public Works & Housing	668481
Finance	636321	Social Development	673191
Foreign Affairs	644361	Supplies	602121
Industry & Trade	663191	Tourism & Antiquities	642311
Information	641467	Transport	641461
Interior Ministry	663111	Water & Irrigation	680100
Justice	663101	Youth / University	604701

Diplomatic Corps

Algerian	641271/2
Australian	673246/7
Austrian	644635
Bahraini	664148/9
Belgian	675683
Bulgarian	818151
Canadian	666124
Chilean	823360
Cyprus Honorary Cons	677539
Czech	671813/666135
Danish Consulate Gen	603703
Finnish Consulate	824654/824676
French	641273/4
German	689351
Greek	671331/2
Hungarian	815614
Icelandic Consulate	698851
Indian	637262
Indonesian	828911
Irish	639331
Italian	638185
Japanese	672486/7
Kuwaiti	675135/8
Libyan	693101/3
Lebanese	641381
Moroccan	641451
Netherlands	637967/625165
New Zealand Consulate	636720
North Korean	666349
Norwegian Embassy	644932/4
Omani	686155
Pakistani	622787
Palestine	677517
People's Rep. of China	666139
Philippines	645161
Polish	637153
Qatari	682666
Romanian	667738
Russian	641158
Saudi Arabian	814154/6
Slovenian Honorary Cons	861542
Sri Lanka, Consulate	645312
South Korean	660745/6
South Africa	811194
Spanish	614166/9
Swedish	644251/2
Swiss	669177/9
Syrian	686416/7
Taiwan	641076
Tunisian	671530
Turkish	674307/8
U.A.E.	641251
U.K.	643347/643341
United Kingdom	823100
United States	820101
Yemen	642381
EEC Delegation	668191
ESCWA	694351/8
ICRC	688645
UNDP/WFP	668171/7
UNRWA	607398
UNICEF	629571
UNESCO	606559

Airlines

Adria Airways	667029
Aeroflot	641510
Air Canada	630879
Air France	666055/667824
Air India	688301/2
Air Lanka	682140
Allitalia	625203
Aljazeera (Air Yemen)	653691
American Airlines	669068
Arab Wings	894484
Austrian Airlines	637380/667028
Balkan Airlines	665909
British Midland	694802
British Airways	641430
Cathay Pacific	628596
China Airlines	636232
Cyprus Airways	667028
Delta Air Lines	643661
Egypt Air	630011
Emirates Airlines	643341
Gulf Air	653613
Hungarian Airlines	622275
Iberia	637827/644036
Iran Air	622826
Japan Airlines	630879
KLM	622175
Korean Airlines	676624/662236
Libyan Arab Airlines	643831/2
Lufthansa	601744
Malaysian Airline	639575/653446
MEA	636104
Olympic	630125/638433
Philippine Airlines	640200
PIA	625981
Polish Airlines	625981
Qantas	641430/655447
Royal Jordanian	678321
Saudia	639333
Scandinavian Airlines	604499
Singapore Airlines	676177
Sudan Airlines	694501
Swiss Air (G.S.A.)	659791/641906
Syrian Air	622147
United Airlines	641959
USAF	694801/2
TAROM - Romanian	637380
Thai Airways	637195
Trans World Airline	623430
Turkish Airlines	659102
Yemenia Airways	628175
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Important Numbers

Emergencies

Police	192/621111
Civil Defence H.Q.	193/198/199
Fire Brigade	622090/93
Ambulance	199
Blood Bank	775121
Traffic Police	625943/639703
Traffic Accidents	897467/8
Highway Police	787111

Hospitals

Akleh Maternity	642441/2
Al-Ahli, Abdali	664164/6
Al-Bashir, Ashrafieh	775111/26
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
Amal Hospital	674155
Army, Marka	891611/15
Hussein Medical Centre	813813
Italian-Al Muhajreen	777101/3
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Khaled Maternity	644281/6
Malhas, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Shmeisani Hospital	607431
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
University Hospital	845845

General

Amman Municipality	843402
Electricity Complaints	121
Prices complaints	666181
Hotel complaints	08/53200
Sewerage Complaints	896390
Water Complaints	656390/91
Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Post Office Info.	750981/23
Telephone Information	121

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THE STAR'S TECHNOLOGY

Edited by Zeid Nasser

Hands-on Quick Draw 3D: The era of 3D graphics arrives

By Khaldoun Al Aqqad
Special to The Star

THERE WAS a time when computer users could only dream of the kind of computer graphics we have today. It was not until the mid eighties that small computer systems appeared, with reasonable power to generate elementary graphics. At that time, computer graphics meant things like circles, lines, and bar charts.

The real divergence in visual computing happened when the need for 3D computer graphics became a serious need.

Hardware and software capabilities are being pushed to their limits in order to generate what is known as '3D Photo Realism'.

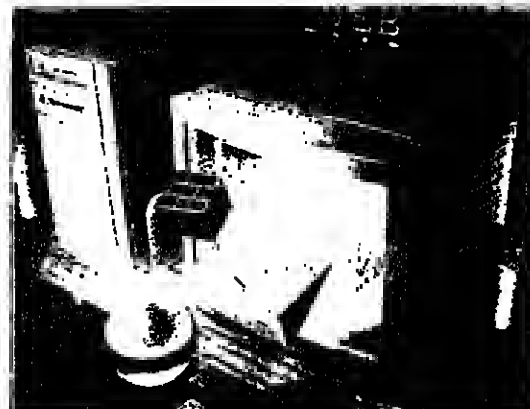
This has been a real challenge to computer developers, due to the rather limited computer processing power available in popular computing platforms.

Yet, the application of computer-generated three dimensional graphics to visualization, scientific computing, engineering, medicine, education, and game entertainment has given rise to this important, and complicated, field. Accordingly, hardware is starting to follow the increasing demands of software which is aimed at producing these graphics.

The generation of 3D pictures involves the application of mathematics, optical physics, and computer science. Producing such complicated

graphics stems from the basic need to apply geometric formulations that are beyond the processing power of computers today.

Though the previous fact is obvious to those involved in 3D graphics, the computer industry today has successfully



generated 3D modeling, and rendering software.

This software is supported with tools and facilities to produce photo realistic 3D pictures. It is provided with instruments to generate lighting, shading, different perspectives viewing, and camera locating so as to assist to the generation of the complicated details available in each and every real-world model.

One tool I have used recently is Quick Draw 3D from Apple Computer. This software is basically a set of libraries and interfaces that could be used to develop 3D graphics.

Apple development of Quick Draw 3D is a clear interpretation of the push the company is working on to widen its established base of users.

Quick Draw 3D will mainly

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A new amazing game for Macintosh computer users:

Marathon 2, a game of true challenge

AN INTERESTING game I have been recently playing is Marathon2: Durandal, a shareware game distributed along with a dozen of other games in the CD sold with Mac User Magazine.

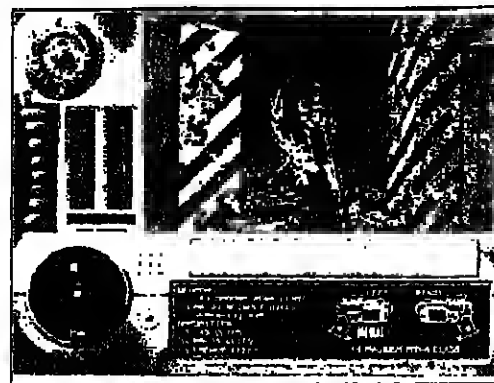
What makes this game so special is the extensive efforts that have gone into its development, design, interface, graphics, sound, performance, and even the smallest details of the game.

Looking at it in the eye of a software developer, I can't help but appreciate what a decent development in the world of game programming it is.

Maybe it wasn't developed by highly experienced programmers and designers. But they seem to be true game players who have a similar taste to most game fans.

The interface of Marathon2 is so simple, allowing choice between a wide set of levels, different playing modes, sounds and music, and different key setups.

You can adjust the game for high graphics modes with lower performance penalty and you can choose the suitable set of keys to play with.



the water as well as the inferno.

Ambient sounds make you feel as if you were there, drowning inside the pool, stepping on the floors, jumping up the steps, or firing with your loud machine gun on true enemies.

The overall performance of the game is amazing. With the big number of details carried out in a very complex 3 dimensional world, natural extensive sound and music happening in real time, as well as network playing. All of that processing and you still have a fast-paced game.

You'll probably spend long hours playing it. It is a unique, entertaining game that keeps your mind busy, and fully aware of everything around in your virtual world. I believe for a game like it is worth paying \$44. You can get it from Bungie Software.

K.A.

News update

Notebooks take-off in Europe

According to a study by Dataquest, there was a rise in the sales of notebook computers in Europe during the first three months of 1995. As a matter of fact, 1.17 million systems were sold on the continent.

This is a clear indication to the growing direction among companies and individuals to purchase notebooks opposed to desktops.

Dataquest expects that there should be an annual increase of 8% every year in the size of the notebook market in Europe; especially as notebooks increase in performance and

decrease in price. Over the last year, the prices of notebooks from Compaq, IBM and Toshiba fell by about 30%, therefore encouraging buyers.

Usually, trends in the European market find their way into the Middle East. As of yet, the notebook is not so popular in the region. It is believed that this is due to the relative 'non maturity' of Middle Eastern markets which are still in the 'desktop stage'.

ACCPAC in Jordan from CATS

Computer Applications & Technical Services (CATS), the Jordanian distributor for Computer Associates (CA) products is currently offering the well-known accounting package ACCPAC in Jordan.

ACCPAC is internationally recognized as one of the most reliable and flexible comprehensive accounting systems which has been tried and tested for over 15 years.

Clients in Jordan have expressed interest in the software, especially as it incorporates a variety of modules which the user can optionally purchase according to the company's needs.

For more information on ACCPAC, you can contact

CATS at telephone number 824111.

Intel to set up manufacturing facility in Israel

The chip-producing giant, Intel, recently decided to set up a \$1.6 billion microprocessor manufacturing facility in Israel. According to sources, Intel received \$600 million worth of tax cuts for the first 10 years of operation. These and other measures are expected to attract other investors, such as Motorola who will also be setting up a manufacturing plant worth \$1 billion.

Internet takes off in Emirates and Bahrain

Following just a few months of full connectivity, Internet services in both the UAE and Bahrain are seeing much activity and recording promising numbers of subscribers. Apparently, the local communities were well aware of the benefits to be gained from the Internet beforehand.

In each country there are different connectivity services at different rates; based either on daily connection hours allowed or the type of Internet account (corporate or single user).

INTERFACE

BY ZEID NASSER

Sprint answers some queries: 'Some' facts on Internet in Jordan

THE LAST couple of weeks, we've been focusing on the subject of the Internet in Jordan and the role Sprint is to play in introducing the service, which is scheduled to start later this month.

As we had stated, computer users in Jordan are not quite sure what to expect and the result is a handful of rumors about the kind of Internet access we will get in Jordan.

Upon speaking to officials at Sprint, a number of these queries were cleared up. However, the rates of the service in Jordan are yet to be announced. Still, Sprint would like users to approach the issue of rates from the angle of productivity achieved and savings gained.

Data communications, in general, save time and money. Now the Internet, as a specific means of data communication, even saves more time. If you were to send a paper fax message, it would most definitely take more time than an e-mail message, which is just another manifestation of your fax. So, Internet services will save companies and individuals lots of faxing costs. There are even other advantages which couldn't possibly be utilized by the traditional fax.

When you 'fax' on the Internet, your message goes on-line immediately, there is no need to re-try because the line simply won't be busy. The Internet provider, Sprint in this case, will do the re-trying for you targeting the destination. Multi-faxing and mass transmissions become so much easier, only requiring the press of a button, rather than spending a long time sending different faxes to different destinations.

This throws a totally different light on the argument that the price may be too high. Still, if Internet users all over the world can live with certain rates for the service, as users in Jordan may as well be content, knowing that we are paying similar rates.

Home users, the people most sensitive to pricing, are expected to want to 'navigate' the Internet. The information they get to is worth something, even if it's just entertainment information, which is why they pay access fees. Their decision to buy the service will depend on their actual willingness to pay for information on the Internet. As plain as that sounds, and as much as it removes that spark of excitement from the concept of 'surfing' the 'net' which we would like to perform from the comfort of our own homes; it's what browsing the Internet anywhere in the world is like.

The possible payment system would be broken up into two parts. First, there's the connection rate, which is a one time payment, then there's the access rate which depends on how much you use the service. The access rate will probably be linked to the time spent using the service.

As to enquiries regarding how many people can actually use the service at the same time, Sprint believe that 'theoretically, you can have unlimited users'.

Having a bigger bandwidth means better service to the increasing number of users, while maintaining the service at acceptable speeds for everyone.

Mr Imad Ayoub, General Manager of Sprint Jordan, told The Star that, 'Currently, we are setting up the structure which will start out with a 128Kbps/sec, going up to 2MBits/sec soon'.

As to the reliability of the service and whether or not users should worry about cut-offs, due to power problems or anything else, Sprint say that they are applying a very solid system that uses uninterrupted power supply system and generators.

'It will be done the Sprint way, maintaining 99.9% availability of the service at all times,' concluded Mr Ayoub.

In any case, Sprint is quite enthusiastic about the potential of Internet services in Jordan and the Sprint officials I talked to were pleased that they would be playing a central role in introducing the Jordanian community to cyberspace with all its benefits.

For more information on Sprint's services, you can contact Mr Imad Ayoub, general manager of Sprint, or Mr Nasser Al Khaldi, sales manager, at telephone 613760.

Internet becoming valuable source in developing world

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
USIA Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—THE computer-based global information infrastructure (GII) is coming to the rescue in the developing world where shrinking resources have meant a shortage of journals and information for intellectually hungry students and professionals. Because of the speed with which computers can handle millions of pieces of information, the advantage for Africans of a GI—such as the Internet service—is that it will give people access to information that has been lost or just never received for years," says computer expert Jonathan Metzger.

As an example, Metzger mentioned a visit he recently made to Makerere University in Uganda, whose library was "on-line" (hooked up to the Internet). The University librarians "talked about how their journal subscriptions had been cut off for a number of years because of a lack of resources" to pay for them. Now, through Internet, Makerere University's library can access data bases and even library holdings worldwide.

Metzger, an international computer systems consultant working for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), led the development of an initiative to extend the Internet international computer network to 20 African nations. Internet already links more than 20 million computers in homes, offices, libraries, and schools worldwide. He discussed international access in the global information infrastructure December 13 with audiences in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Uganda, Sierra Leone and Kenya. The program was arranged by the WorldNet, the satellite television service of the US Information Agency.

The computer expert was joined in the discussion by Wendy White, senior program officer and information services manager of the National Research Council, who is currently working on expanding science and technology information networks in Africa.

White said the key to computer networking in Africa is "to provide access points—central places where people would go naturally to look for information whether it is their post office, village hardware store, or the library." Metzger added that "you can have

information kiosks or community information centers where people can go."

He explained that in Africa and many other places in the world "not everyone has a computer. But if there is an information kiosk where they can go and ask a trained Internet librarian to answer a question about education or a specific type of disease, or a new type of seed that becomes a community resource for people to be used under different circumstances than in the United States where computers are prolific."

Now that "vast libraries of knowledge" can be stored and shared on computers, Metzger said it was hoped that

Addressing the African concern that the Internet would flood the developing world with information and that "your own information is going to be totally lost," White said the solution was to "put your own information" into the system

"through the Internet, people in Zimbabwe (for example) could leapfrog ahead and be able to get information which they've lost over time or not been able to receive."

At the same time, "they can also input the research they have been doing in Zimbabwe so that people in Zambia (for example) as well as people in the United States could receive that knowledge," he added.

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In such a program, called the "African Index-Medical Project," White said medical librarians in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Ghana go together in an organization and agreed how to collect and input information that is produced locally.

"They've scoured their own libraries, gone out and gotten reports from conferences, found out what their own researchers have published and then put this information together in a common format and made it available on-line for computer users," White explained.

With no outside funding, "it's been based on the individual efforts of librarians at these institutions." And "this is where we need to start," White emphasized, that is, with "small projects that are locally managed and financed, to the extent possible."

This African effort is a good model for others, she added, and "it is contributing a great deal to the knowledge base of the world."

On the question of the cost of joining the global computer network, Metzger said "it is true that it requires a lot of capital investment for people in the developing world if they want to achieve the same level of Internet services as in the United States, mainly in the area of upgrading telephone lines." But African nations are making progress toward joining the GI and as examples Metzger mentioned:

■ Zambia, "where over a period of years they were able to provide access to enough people so that they had critical mass and could upgrade their computer services to become a full Internet service provider"; and

■ Ghana and Mali, who without a lot of clients as in Zambia, "were able to borrow money to get loans for the dedicated (phone) lines and (computer) hardware and began offering full Internet services which the community jumped to (join) because they wanted the advance features of the full Internet service."

Commenting on the future, Metzger noted that although there were 37 sub-Saharan nations that had computer messaging capability called e-mail, when full Internet capability comes to the continent, "we have to make sure that African-produced information gets out."

There is a minimum amount of resources for research in Africa, he said. "So, you wouldn't want Zambia to replicate a study that Zimbabwe has already done just because they haven't heard that that study is available just across the border."

Chevy's Cavalier has become a competitive small car

By Tom Incantalupo
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

FROM THEIR beginnings in the early '80s, the Chevrolet Cavalier and its cousins at other GM divisions have served two purposes: low-cost family transportation and, in two-door versions, spunky-looking cars for young people that don't cost a million dollars to buy, insure or maintain.

Though never a benchmark car in either quality or design, the Cavalier has served both purposes well, judging at least by its popularity with American buyers. Sales continued to be strong even as the car aged and was bypassed by progressively better competitors.

Except for very attractive pricing, made more so with factory and dealer discounting from sticker prices, those strong sales would have been a mystery. The Cavalier was, in put it charitably, long in the tooth. It had been around for so many years that, to put it uncharitably, it was a dinosaur.

Well, if the new models introduced a year ago do just as well, it won't be a mystery. Having now sampled three '95s and a '96 a sedan and, most recently, two Z24 coupes and the convertible, which went on sale last spring—we can state confidently that the Cavalier is now a competitive small car.

And it still sells for a reasonable price. The line remains essentially unchanged for '96, but the cars are now available in volume; early glitches on the assembly lines finally have been worked out.

Style-conscious buyers might be most pleased by the all-new exteriors. Smooth and modern, if somewhat generic, they move the Cavalier aesthetically from the early '80s to the '90s and beyond.

The new bodies are slightly shorter but ride on a longer wheelbase. The equally new interiors look more expensive than they are.

Those of you who have owned GM cars with the 2.3-liter engine called the "Quad Four" might be happiest about the improvements made to it for '96, including an increase in displacement to 2.4 liters, an increase in torque of 5 foot-pounds—and, to underscore the changes, the trash-canning of the name "Quad Four."

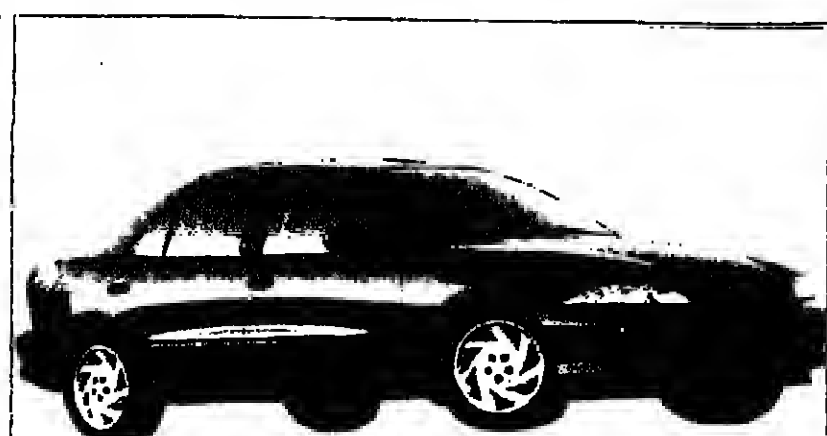
The horsepower remains at 150 at 6,000 rpm, but GM says the engine has been quieted and the car's soundproofing improved. Indeed, while it would be a stretch to call the 2.4's operation silky, it seems quieter and more vibration-free than its notoriously raucous predecessor. We could easily live with it.

Standard in the Cavalier is a 2.2-liter, four-cylinder engine rated at 120 horsepower. Coupes with that engine and a five-speed stick begin at \$10,995, including freight.

The larger engine is available as an option in sedans and convertibles in the LS trim level.

Both of our Z24 testers had the standard five-speed stick; it's not the smoothest you'll ever find, but it'll do. Four-speed automatic is optional, for \$795. Standard equipment for the Z24's base price includes air conditioning, dual outside mirrors, fog lamps, 16-inch aluminum wheels, tilt steering wheel, a decklid spoiler and a stereo with cassette player.

You will pay extra for power windows, windows and locks, cruise control, variable intermittent wipers and remote key-



less entry, all of which our 1996 Z24 tester had in a package for \$975.

The Z24 has a sport suspension called "Level II." Our '96 tester's ride was usually comfortable but sometimes jarring on a bad road, particularly one with swollen expansion joints.

The steering, while not offering variable assist, was, we thought, boosted just enough for ease in parking yet not so highly as to eliminate any feedback for highway driving.

The coupe's trunk is deep and long, with low lift-over, but the steeply raked back window leaves a short opening that, for example, was barely large enough to accept a small air conditioner we had to haul one day, out of its box. Yet the trunk was almost large enough to hold two of them. The rear seatback in sedans and coupes folds forward to increase cargo room even more.

Inside, the plastic appears to be high quality. There are two cup holders for front seats; one forward in the console but deep enough to keep only small cups from tipping, the other

inside a bin farther back in the center console that is deep enough for a Big Gulp but located in a place vulnerable to being knocked over by an elbow. The underside of the bin's lid provides a shallow cup holder for rear-seaters when the lid is opened all the way. One unfortunate feature that we hope none of you ever has occasion to notice is that the Cavalier line does not yet meet 1997 federal side-impact standards, although many cars now do. Gauges include the usual speedometer/odometer plus a tachometer and a coolant temperature indicator. An upshift indicator light is there in five-speed versions for drivers just learning to manage a stick shift, but it is unobtrusive enough to be ignored by those who don't need it.

The rear seat is low and hard, with limited headroom in the coupe-typical of a hatchback-type car, even though the coupe is not a hatchback car. Legroom back there, however, is adequate for any but the tallest of passengers.